

Earth First!

Yule

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Pemon Topple Power Towers in Venezuela



photo by Atossa Soltani

Attention President Chavez Frias: Listen to our demands or...

BY ATOSSA SOLTANI

Calling themselves "Rainbow Warriors" according to an old tribal legend, on September 24 Pemon indigenous leaders from the Gran Sabana and Imataca region of southern Venezuela once again mounted a several week long campaign to halt the construc-

tion of the controversial Guri high-voltage transmission line which had been paralyzed since last February due to indigenous protests (see *EF!*, September-October, 1998).

The 470-mile transmission line is half complete. Born out of a trade agreement, it will let Venezuela sell cheap electricity to Brazil while bringing elec-

tricity to industrial gold mines and new logging mills in the Imataca Forest Reserve on the Venezuela side. Imataca, which is considered among the 10 most biologically rich forests in the world, encompasses 10 million acres (3.6 million hectares) of diverse tropical forest (an area about the size of Holland) and has an indigenous population of about 10,000. The power line also crosses indigenous lands in the Canaima National Park—a World Heritage Site and home of Angel Falls, the world's tallest waterfall. This mega-project will have serious impacts on the health, land and way of life of more than 24,000 Pemon, Karina, Arakawa, Akawaio and Warao indigenous peoples.

Since construction began in the spring of 1998, there have been ongoing protests which have caused serious delays in the completion of the project. For seven months no work was carried out while the Venezuelan Senate Environment Committee investigated grievances about improper consultation and the environmental impact assessment process.

Early on September 24, members of Pemon communities of the Gran Sabana region began interrupting traffic and

blockading construction crews along the Venezuela-Brazil highway, a major "free-trade" route. They demanded that Venezuela's new president, Hugo Chavez Frias, come to the Gran Sabana and meet with the concerned communities. On September 28 community leaders detained three construction trucks belonging to the construction company *Elecven and Corporacion Venezolano de Guyana* (CVG), the state-owned mining and energy company.

This latest round of protests was fueled by an article in a Venezuelan magazine, *Economia Hoy*, that quoted CVG President Clemente Scotto as saying that all environmental issues and land conflicts with indigenous communities affected by the project had been resolved. He claimed that CVG had reached agreement with these communities to allow the power line project to continue. According to Jerrick Andre of the indigenous Federation of Bolivat State, "Indigenous communities throughout the Gran Sabana denounced the CVG statement as a big lie and a sign of lack of respect for indigenous peoples' rights."

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THE HAMMER THAT CRACKED A NUCLEAR LAB

BY ANGIE ZELTER

I am sitting in a garden on a pretty Scottish hillside. The open sky is above me, grass and trees all around. It's beautiful. Just a few days ago I was in Cornton Vale Prison in Stirling with fellow Trident Ploughshares 2000 women, Ellen Moxley and Ulla Roder. We had no idea whether we were going to be there for days, months or even years.

We were remanded on June 8, charged with causing £80,000 damage to *Maytime*, the Scottish floating laboratory complex in Loch Goil—a vital link to the Trident nuclear submarine system. We had tipped computers and monitors into the loch, destroyed electrical equipment with a hammer and disabled a winch with glue. The whole operation had been very calm and cautious, though once we got on board the adrenaline started to flow because we didn't know how long we had. We thought we might have 10 minutes, but in the end it was over three hours before we were caught.

At the trial, we admitted causing damage. But on October 21, Sheriff Margaret Gimblett ruled in favour of our argument that we had been acting to prevent a crime under international law and that on June 8, when we were at war with Serbia and Iraq, the active deployment of 100-kiloton nuclear warheads on Trident submarines was a criminal threat of mass destruction.

I was utterly elated when I heard the decision. No more clanging prison doors, no more waiting two or three hours after you've asked to go to the toilet before a guard will take you. Prison is such a waste of potential. I felt like a caged tiger.

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Deconstructing the Trans-Israel Highway

BY GREEN ACTION

Since November 14, members of Green Action and Green Course have been camping in a protest tent to stop the construction of the Trans-Israel Highway. The work on the highway began in early November east of Tel-Aviv near Kibbutz Nachshonim.

The environmental movement in Israel has been fighting the Trans-Israel Highway for years with little success. A consortium of local and international corporations has been able to advance its agenda in opposition to public opinion, academia and non-state employed transportation experts.

The road, if and when completed, will stretch north to south 15-30 kilometers from the coast. It will not solve the clogged roads or improve the connection between the city center and the periphery. It will lead to more pollution, accidents and other ills. Most importantly, building the road will lead to suburban sprawl in the last relatively rural areas of Israel. Such a development will create one big Los Angeles, stretching from Haifa to Beer Sheva, from the coast to the "Green Line" (which divides Israel proper from the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian Authority).

On the fourteenth, protesters brought work on the highway to a halt. Starting around 11 a.m. about 40 activists began removing the dirt road prepared by the highway people. This led to a constant stream of visitors in hard hats, driving fancy cars

and 4X4s. Around 2:30 p.m. the contractor decided enough was enough and proceeded to repair the damage to the road with a bulldozer. Activists blocked it with their bodies.

The police arrived and tried (really, they gave it their best shot!) to get us to leave peacefully. This was not possible, but instead of arresting us, police chief Rosh Ha'ayin ordered the company to stop work for the day. We think that the police asked for all the legal documents regarding the area and the work, and the company didn't have them.

The next day, two protesters were arrested for pulling up survey stakes and rebuilding the barrier on the access road.

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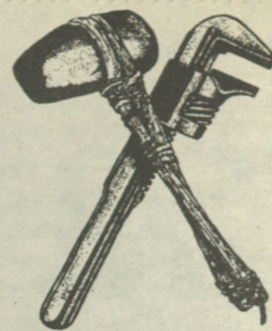
photo courtesy Green Action

Activists decommission newly plowed road in Israel.

EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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Seattle was Just an Appetizer

It was really hard to envision what was going to happen in Seattle. I did know there was going to be critical international trade agreements on the table, the wealthiest ranking corporate officials on Earth present, representatives of 135 (globalized and globalizing) nations on hand and a beefed-up police force to guard the highly secretive meetings. I also knew there was a rag-tag band of 20,000 (mostly under 30 years old) prepared to stand off against the faceless World Trade Organization (WTO), 30,000 empowered union members ready to march and a mass of international NGOs fresh from overseas. *Something* was going to happen.

While the international spotlight projected on the Emerald City, the *Earth First!* Journal staff and thousands of others on the West Coast headed up I-5 ready to square off against the most powerful, undemocratic body in the world. As the gas, chemical sprays, concussion grenades and rubber bullets cleared at the end of the five-day talks, so did the cloud of secrecy that has hung over the WTO since its inception four years ago. Day after day, newspapers splashed headlines to the world. Network news shoved cameras in the faces of high school students blockading intersections, panelists speaking at teach-ins, black-clad messengers smashing corporate property, and international delegates getting denied from the talks and hotels as human rings around both bounced them back into the streets of democracy.

More important than shutting down the WTO was the global handshakes that were made, the nods of international solidarity exchanged and the new mutual understanding of many different struggles. Even more important was the international focus as global trade was getting pounced on in Seattle. The eyes behind Zapatista bandannas widened. The hearts of those displaced in the Niger Delta warmed. The commitment of the U'wa strengthened. And the movement for sovereignty and environmental sanity raged on throughout the globe.

Right now, the WTO is struggling for an identity. Seattle's mayor and Washington's governor had to suspend the US Constitution (individual rights) by declaring a state of civil emergency to ensure the Microsoft and Boeing-sponsored trade talks happened. Even so, as army vehicles roamed the nearly vacant and eerily quiet "50-square block no protest zone," the WTO and its movement toward a new "round" got a solid kick in the nuts. How did we do it?

Although there were plenty of internal kinks about tactics and strategy, the WTO was pinned down for the count because of the specialized niches filled by every person involved, not just in Seattle but in Bangladesh, West Papua and Turkey. The international riff-raff People's Global Action charged through the US explaining the ill-effects of globalization. Dozens of banners were dropped. The world's most evil corporate chains were smashed and spray painted; some demonstrators even helped scrub the graffitied buildings. Union members marched with sea turtles. The cathedral-like United Methodist church opened its doors to all. Every niche was filled. Seattle was a corporate cocktail-party-gone-bad for Bill Gates and Bill Clinton.

Driving home from Seattle was my first real chance to reflect on what *really* just happened. Thinking about all the

sea ports from San Diego to Alaska that workers shut down on that November 30 Tuesday. Driving through Portland and motoring by a demo of 200 in solidarity with the 600 still incarcerated. Dropping off my newly met friend from the UK who came over representing thousands of others unable to make it. Listening to Casey's "Flaming Arrows" and how they just pierced the belly of the beast. Each day since the talks ended reveals the overwhelming results of what *really* happened in Seattle. This was the WTO Ministerial that didn't happen.

There is a long historical list of resistance to oppressive times. The Seattle Round of the WTO was the culmination of a movement that has been steadily building. I think back to my roots and the Diggers of St. George's Hill, Elizabeth Gurly Flynn and Joe Hill, Ken Saro-Wiwa and Chico Mendez, Leonard Peltier and the Move 9, Gypsy Chain and Ingrid Washinawatok, and all of the individuals and movements throughout history that once struggled against what has now become the WTO.

Seattle was just an appetizer for what is around the corner. When our hearts are behind our actions, we know we're headed in the right direction. As I heard Jim Hightower in Seattle paraphrase a yellow pages ad for furniture movers, "If you can loosen it enough, we'll move it." We *journalistas* are strapped down and committed to helping move it there.

P.S. Oh yeah. Hope everyone's Y2K holidays are filled with the season's best. We sure hope to get you the Brigid issue after the new year.

—JOSH

In Memory of Peter J. Bralver

"Old school" EFers who knew him—either directly or through his art—will be saddened to learn that Peter Bralver has died.

He came into the tribe fairly early—around the mid-80s and was co-founder of LA EF!. He had a deft and spirited touch with a paintbrush or felt marker, and his banners and posters wound up in photos, on TV and more importantly, as ground zero inspiration at demos. Pete's art made its way 'round the movement, including a couple of t-shirt designs.

Pete also crewed with the Sea Shepherd, as a ship's cook, and Darryl Cherney recently reminisced that Pete was pivotal in helping organize Redwood Summer.

Pete struggled with a bipolar condition and was prone to manic highs and disconnected lows. He was personally wrenched by both the FBI backlash to EF! and the rancor and factionalism that have marked the movement to varying degrees.

He leaves behind poetry, paintings, mathematical treatises, unfinished theorems, many sweet memories and an enormous library. He often loaned me books, ranging from tomes on chaos theory to an early edition of Barry Lopez' collection of Coyote tales, *Giving Birth to Thunder, Sleeping With his Daughter*.

In the final story, "Coyote Finishes His Work," Old Man says to Coyote: "Your work is finished, Coyote. You have traveled far and done much good. Now you will go where I have prepared a home for you."

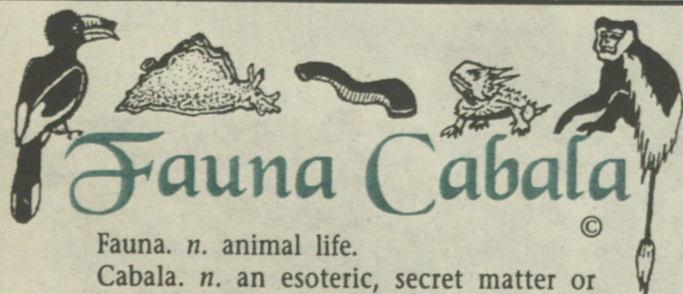
Pete, with all his Coyote energy, is there now. His heart gave way at 56 years of age. Trickster, painter, beat poet, mad scientist, eco-warrior, LA EF! organizer and dear friend, I will miss him.

—MARK L. WILLIAMS

BY FAITH WALKER

mouth, where they mature. During these several weeks he doesn't eat a thing, and gradually wastes away. About ten percent of the time males do the deed—they swallow, as is betrayed by an exaggerated potbelly.

Females, meanwhile, desert their males and venture forth to find more mouthbrooding mates. Doing so is hazardous, however, as flounders and lizardfish, their primary predators, lurk in the shadows. Because the number of cardinalfishlings that end up surviving hinges upon the number of eggs a male can fit in his cheeks, females are particularly fond of males with big mouths. Thus, this is an example not only of sex role reversal (where females expend less energy per offspring than do males), but also the 'bigger is better' truth that is a common theme in mate selection.



Fauna. *n.* animal life.

Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Swallowing is the worst thing a male cardinalfish can do to his progeny. These sand-dwelling fish of the genus *Apogon* live among sandy reefs in the west Pacific's shallow waters. During the breeding season males and females court and then spend an afternoon spawning in the safety of the reefs' nooks and crannies. The male then gulps the mass of eggs into his

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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The People Must be United

"The People, United, Will Never Be Defeated," was one of the most commonly heard chants in the days of marches protesting the WTO summit in Seattle. However, one of the most striking elements of the WTO protests was the level of conflict between adherents of a "nonviolent" protest method and those who preferred to more concretely express their feelings toward global capitalism. A tide of reaction has been swelling against the latter, with great arrogance on the part of the former. As a group of activist intellectuals, we feel the need to state our support for the group the media has been calling, only somewhat inaccurately, "the Anarchists from Eugene."

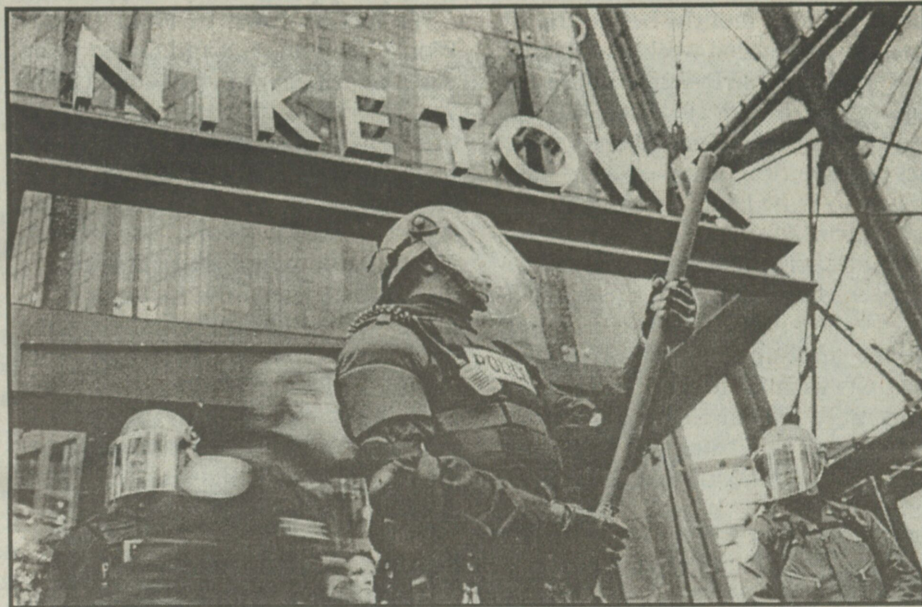
We—the broad Left, anti-corporate, pro-livable world community—controlled the streets of downtown Seattle from 7 a.m. to roughly 7 p.m. on Tuesday. After that period—with Mayor Schell and Governor Locke's declarations of martial law and the violent offensive by local, county, state police and the National Guard—the streets were a war zone. But during that period, they were a liberated area.

Inside that liberated area a spectrum of protest and resistance activities took place, many of which warmed our hearts. Violence against property, as we'll call the attacks against corporate chain stores, was one of the conscious strategies that was employed. These activities began on the afternoon of Monday, November 29, with the smashing of a window at McDonald's. The next day, November 30, they started again shortly after 10 a.m. at the corner of 6th Ave. and Pike St., when police began shooting tear gas canisters and rubber bullets into the crowd. Throughout the day activists, protecting their identities with hoods and kerchiefs, formed "black blocks" to move *en masse* to attack unoccupied chain stores such as the Gap, Nike, Levi, Disney and the Bank of America. This is a key point that the media and President Clinton, among others, are trying to obscure: The crowd did not attack "mom and pop stores," but the physical manifestations of "McDomination."

Adherents to "nonviolent" protest methods preach against targeting corporate property. We feel giving private property a higher value than life is an uncritical acceptance of the dominant value system of American consumer society. As activists we feel that we need to debate these issues further amongst ourselves. The problem we are addressing immediately is that these "nonviolent" activists used their numerical advantage to isolate and

dominate practitioners of alternate protest philosophies: most visibly, the black block anarchists.

As a spectrum of protest activities manifested themselves, scenes we witnessed included "nonviolent" activists linking arms to protect the corporate theme store Nike Town from the aggressive acts of a black block. Riot police soon replaced the "peace advocates" as if to say, "We'll take over now. You're only volunteering to protect property; we do it for a living." Elsewhere throughout the day "nonviolent" activists de-masked, and on at least one occasion beat an individual who was acting against property.



Showdown at Niketown

Many elements of the broad Left, anti-corporate, pro-livable world community have been alarmingly willing to distance themselves from direct, militant forms of protest. The *World Trade Observer*, a daily tabloid published by a network of mainstream environmental and fair trade organizations, which features the writing of prominent figures such as Ralph Nader and Norman Solomon, offers one example. In describing the previous day's festivities in their Wednesday, December 1 issue, they identified as a "troubling theme" the practice of "the police singling out peaceful demonstrators for gassing and beating... while ignoring black-clad hooligans breaking windows and spraying paint." We witnessed other "nonviolent" protesters criticizing the police, not for waging chemical warfare to cleanse the streets of protesters, but for failing to enter into the crowd and extract the practitioners of militant protest. The implication of these statements is that the crowd would have handed over some of its members to the police, if the police had only asked. We strongly urge progressive activists to reconsider this stance.

There will undoubtedly be repercussions from the fact that we took control of a major city for 12 hours as the leading administrative body of global capitalism met to brainstorm for the next millennium. It is unfair, and irresponsible, to offer "the Anarchists from Eugene" to the state as scapegoats. Without the support of the rest of the WTO protesters, the direct action practitioners are at great risk. Grand juries have become common in the militant animal rights and environmental movements: We would not think it a surprising development for there to be an inquisition exploring "conspiracy to riot" charges for the days of well-directed rage in Seattle. Gas-masks were declared illegal under Mayor Schell's martial law, and the donning of hoods is being explored by prosecutors in Eugene as a possible excuse for sentence enhancement. The price of protecting oneself and one's identity from police violence is rising. As people who are interested in counteracting the ill effects of globalization and ensuring a livable new millennium, we need to consciously confront the criminalization of radical political philosophies.

We feel that those who belittle and distance themselves from the actions of "the Anarchists from Eugene" have either ignored or simply did not realize the level of contributions anarchists—black-clad and otherwise—made toward bringing the November 30 Festival of Resistance into reality. These include the innovative and joyful protest methods of

the Direct Action Network, a sustained consciousness-raising effort from Left Bank Books, alternative social structures offered by Food Not Bombs and Homes Not Jails, the anarchist hotline, housing networks and so on. It also should not go unsaid that developing a community able to produce several hundred predominantly white youths with middle-class backgrounds to take militant action against their real enemy, is no small feat. It has taken years of sowing and tending the seeds of awareness and resistance, and we, at least, appreciate that effort.

If the Left activist community is to be united and strong, more communication and internal discussion around strategic issues is necessary.

This article was co-signed by Daniel Burton-Rose, (206) 324-8165, ex. 1; Ward Churchill, (303) 492-5066; Robin Hahnel, (202) 885-2712; rhahnel@american.edu; Kent Jewell, (206) 324-8165, ex. 3; George Katsiaficas, (617) 989-4384; Christian Parenti, (415) 626-4034; seapea@juno.com; and Robert Perkinson, (203) 772-1600; robert.perkinson@yale.edu.

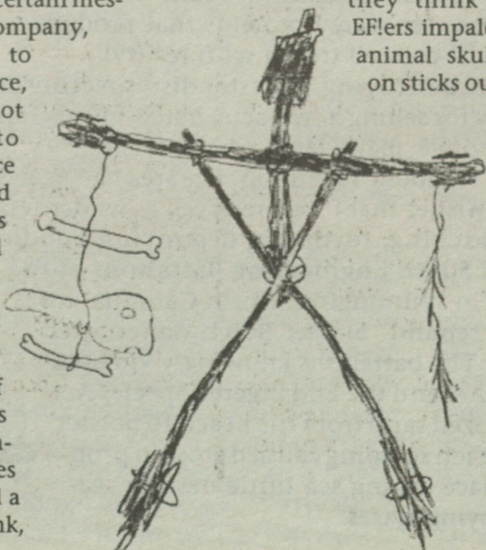
Dear Shit fer Brains

Please keep 'em under 300 words... please!?

Dear SFB,

The hanging of stick figures, stick crosses, and baskets of stones tied to trees within the forests of a logging company, and also left near the mansion or the offices of the same logging company can send an eerie, uncertain message to the logging company, adds a new element to EF! civil disobedience, which the police do not yet know how to handle. So far, police know how to respond to police blockades etc.—they arrest and pepper spray. But a stick figure, holding dangling bones, could mean anything within the realm of eeriness to the loggers or police—it is this uncertainty that elevates anxiety. What would a logging company think,

if hundreds of stick figures were left outside its offices the day after beginning an illegal or unethical clearcutting? The possibilities are as great as ones creativity and imagination when making stick figures. What would they think if EF!ers impaled animal skulls on sticks out-



side their offices? How would a logger respond if he climbed into his skidder one morning to find a stick figure with its head cut off by a stick figure saw? What if he ignored it, but returned home to find one outside of his driveway? Would he continue to work as long as there were these eerie messages? What is the legality of voodoo dolls, etc.?

—SCOOPY-DOO

Dear SFB,

Genocide comes in many forms. From the near extinction of what is now a silence that hangs over the empty plains where thundering hooves ruled as far as the eye could see, to teeming rivers that hold a memory of spawning multitudes for an ancient few.

I look back two decades to my youth when I raised Salmon for OREQUA foods in Newport, Oregon before and after Wharehouser (sic) took control and I see buckets and buckets of little dead fish.

At first only a few burials I was allowed to do quarter five gallon

buckets of dead fingerlings salmon only an inch or two long (sic).

The words dead salmon were taboo to use. Instead they were called morts (moralities) to ensure secrecy of the fish kills as well as burial ground on Right Creek and sandpits of Uquina Bay dead salmon filled. I soon became disturbed when the real picture came into view. The occasional buckets became regular five gallon buckets and daily numbered six to eight and my shoulders began to ache. It then became perfectly clear to me that fish kills really were this company's name sake. Where common sense should be the rule calculated neglect was the tool to eradicate entire fish runs supplied by the state to bury and forget.

I attempted to suggest simple remedies to stop the senseless fish kills and was told to shut my mouth. It soon became clear to me everyone knew as I now did

that OREQUA was the Salmon's Holocaust and Wharehouser was to fish what Hitler was to Jews.

I fought down the urge to puke more than once and determined to witness stayed on with my mouth shut. I knew some day the taste of bile would finally be gone and my chance would

come to say.

They called my firing a lay off, I was glad to leave Murder Bay and the buried Salmon of yesterday.

Now you know as I do thanks to OREQUA, Wharehouser and the Oregon State Game and Fish, our precious salmon are very few, and soon to be poor, hungry proud fisherman will have to find something else to do like spit shine a rich Senator's shoe.

—H. SCOTT RASMUSSEN

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Watch Mountain Victory

FIRST EVER VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF A TREESIT

BY TIM REAM

It's a lot of fun to build a tree village but nowhere near the pleasure of taking one down. On November 22, the Cascadia Defense Network (CDN) became the first group of US activists to take down a sit because the area they were protecting was no longer under threat. For now, Watch Mountain has been saved.

Five thousand acres of native and ancient forest in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, including Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek, were to be given to Plum Creek as part of the I-90 Land Exchange to publicly acquire 48,000 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company railroad land grant parcels (see *EF! Journal*, September-October 1999). The deal was legislated in October, 1998 and the deeds were to change hands in mid-July. CDN erected a Watch Mountain tree village on July 11. After an incredible summer of action, outreach, politics and miracles, Watch Mountain has now been dropped from the exchange. Remarkably, nearly 1,000 acres of ancient forest at Fossil Creek have also been dropped. Six hundred and forty acres of Fossil Creek are restricted from management activities and are available for purchase for the next three years, and Plum Creek is a willing seller on the remaining 1,280 acres. To offset the loss of acreage going to Plum Creek, approximately 16,000 acres of Plum Creek I-90 corridor land have also been placed in three-year escrow awaiting appropriation of funds for purchase as national forest. The final negotiated deal involves several promises regarding dropped lawsuits and rights to challenge harvest plans. For full details of the settlement see www.pcbp.org.

Victory in this campaign has been unique in several regards: this was the first direct action campaign against a

land exchange; the chances of winning at the time direct action began in the woods was practically nonexistent; and victory was achieved within three and one-half months of the initiation of an on-site action. It may be instructive to examine some of the elements that produced such success.

Community Organizing

We're not talking about potlucks with our hippie friends; we're talking timber town! For four months before the sit, Sara Vekasi traveled weekly to Randle, Washington, from Evergreen State College to create a video about the I-90 Land Exchange. Despite the fact that it was a done deal, she hoped to raise energy to fight Plum Creek's plans to cut Watch Mountain. By knocking on doors, swapping stories and always coming back, amazing friendships and alliances were produced between radical enviros and small-town folk. Town meetings with more than 100 participants were central to positive front page stories and to convincing Plum Creek that Watch Mountain would not be worth the effort.



The last load leaving Watch Mountain.

Direct Action

The tree village at Watch Mountain was the rallying point for direct action activists, grass roots organizers and for townfolk. The village was the front

page and nightly news visual needed to reach a Seattle audience. To make this happen required producing a space where enough locals felt safe. Integral to this effort was a strict policy against drug or alcohol use. In both their space and ours we tried to respect each others differences and activists often made sacrifices about how we wanted to push our broader agenda.

Broad Coalition

CDN by no means had to go it alone. For years the I-90 Exchange

was fought by the Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project, Western Land Exchange Project, the Gifford Pinchot Task Force and others. As much as possible, actions, coalition positions and media messages were coordinated between groups. During the campaign the Friends of East Lewis County was organized by locals and became an equal partner.

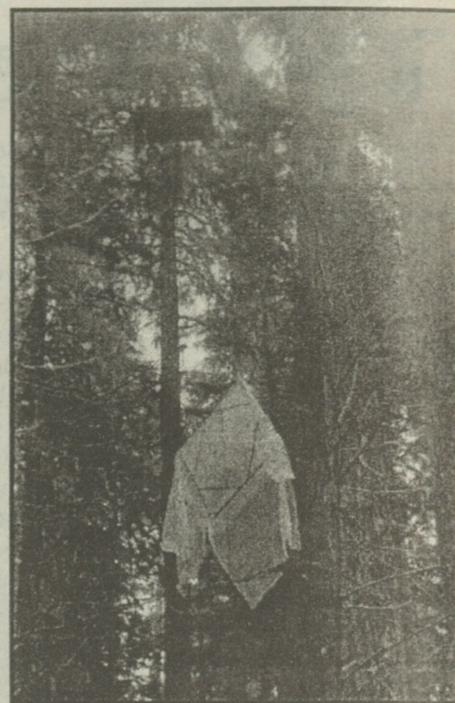
Every Opportunity Exploited

We locked down in Plum Creek's World Headquarters and raided them a second time. We put a second sit in Fossil Creek, and we let them know they'd have to fight for every stem. But we also went to Senator Gorton's potluck, lobbied in Washington DC, and tabled at the Packwood Flea Market. The coalition hammered out letters to the editor, pressed the national enviros to do the right thing and appealed the Forest Service decision. Every tool within and outside the system was considered and utilized whenever it was considered strategic to do so. Sometimes criticized as single-issue, we were certainly multi-tactic.

Focus On Outreach

The treesit was direct action. We were in place to oppose forest destruction at the point of exploitation. However, our philosophy of direct action incorporated the concept that stopping the destruction of Watch Mountain would require a political decision by the president and Congress. It sucks, but that was the reality. To that end we wanted as many people as possible to experience the mountain and the action to save it. We never turned down an opportunity to invite folks for a walk through the forest or to train someone to climb into a sit. In three months we probably had 500 visitors and trained more than 150 climbers. Nearly every media story was overwhelmingly positive.

In the end the coalition position had been more or less adopted by the local town, the congressman, every major environmental group in the



The Nuthatch coming down.

nation and the Democratic Central Committee of Washington state. Ultimately, Plum Creek had to see things our way. It was only then that Democratic Senator Patty Murray lifted a finger to help the cause.

Of course work still needs to be done. The remaining I-90 and Fossil Creek lands set aside from management activities need to be purchased, probably by using funds from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. If this purchase does not quickly include all of Fossil Creek, CDN will reinstate an intense campaign of direct action against Plum Creek. Finally, Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek are still in the hands of the criminally insane Forest Service. Momentum from this campaign will be employed to stop the Silver/Watch timber sale planned before the I-90 Exchange was completed and perhaps to incorporate Fossil Creek into the Mount St. Helen's National Monument.

For a week or so though we'll celebrate the victory and give thanks to all who supported it in so many ways. Our joyous energy goes out to the sitters at the other ten or so sits who are looking at another hard winter. May you also have the pleasure of taking your platform down!

Contact the Cascadia Defense Network, POB 718, Randle, WA 98377; (360) 497-2333.

Wolves & Poodles

A scimitar-swinging, head-lobbing wolf to the government of the United Arab Emirates, an oil-rich Gulf state, for its newest anti-pollution law making importing any banned materials or nuclear waste into the country, and trying to store or dump it, a crime punishable by fines up to \$10 million and death.

A big pink, stumbling nature-bats-last wolf to the wild elephants in Gauhati, India, that saw fit to break into a cluster of thatched huts, guzzle rice beer fermenting in casks and then tear the village apart in a drunken rampage.

An "oh-my-God we never thought we would give you a wolf" wolf to Barbara Boxer for leading the fight in congress to stop the Global Free Trade Logging Agreement at the World Trade Organization meetings and for supporting the Quechan Tribe's opposition to the Imperial Gold Mine.

A healthy, happy, clean air breathing wolf to Breatharian Institute of America founder and CEO Wiley Brooks for his uncompromising stand for the air-mosphere. Believing that life forces energize and sustain human life, breatharians survive on air—not consuming solid or liquid food for subsistence. "The real food for life, which is air, is digested in the heart, not in the stomach and needs to be clean and free of pollutants." Save the air-mosphere!

A far-fucking-out wolf to the students of Texas A&M University for taking their yuppie-puppy asses out whilst committing the outrageous environmental crime of cutting 7,000 oak trees to build a bonfire for a football rally. This has been taking place for the last 100 years. So much for tradition.

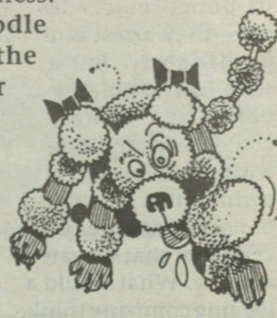


A can you throw in a couple of sheep with that ripping-off-the-natives poodle to Occidental Petroleum for its insanely ridiculous offer of one outboard motor, 1,300 sheets of tin roofing, 44 sets of aluminum pots, five rolls of chicken wire, 200 pounds of nails and 200 plastic tubes to purchase the last remaining 45,000 acres of rainforest on Secoya lands in the Ecuadorian Amazon?

A spirit-of-the-season stealing poodle to the postgraduate students at the University of Hertfordshire, UK, for their biotechnological proposal to perfect a Christmas tree with glow-in-the-dark pine needles. The idea is to modify a Douglas spruce with two genes from fluorescent jellyfish and fireflies, using a special fertilizer to "turn on" the tree, making it glow. Scientists have also discovered proteins that produce red and blue fluorescence making multi-colored trees a sci-fi reality.

A Mother Nature destroying, ancestor disrespecting poodle to the Florida Audubon Society for selling a two-acre, much-loved chunk of oak tree, sabal palm and wild coffee plant land near Interstate 95 to Miami developer Michael Thomas, for about \$1 million. The area had been willed to the Society with the express wishes that it be preserved as wilderness.

A sand castle kicking, turtle egg destroying poodle to the 105th and 505th Engineering Battalions of the National Guard in Wilmington, North Carolina, for their efforts to "rebuild" Sunset Beach dunes after Hurricane Floyd. The battalions knowingly violated the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act when they bulldozed sand from the beach to bolster the dunes. The beach scraping caused erosion problems and took place during sea turtle nesting season, disturbing laying cycles.



MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL OLE KING COAL SLOWLY DIES IN WEST VIRGINIA

BY VIVIAN STOCKMAN

As an adult returning to your hometown, you don't really freak out if your childhood home has been razed. That you might have expected. But how would you feel if you returned to find the mountains that surrounded your hometown razed?

You'd feel like someone who lives in the coalfields of southern West Virginia.

In many of the Mountain State's southern counties, mountains are being leveled in a mining process known as mountaintop removal. This ecocide-for-profit also goes on in areas of Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, though no state is as heavily impacted as West Virginia.

Coal companies first bulldoze the mountains' temperate forests, which are some of the most biologically diverse woodlands on Earth. Every living thing is scrapped into oblivion. The topsoil is removed, and then the underlying rock is blasted away in explosions 10 to 100 times more powerful than the bomb blast at the Oklahoma City federal building.

Next, huge draglines up to 20 stories tall and gargantuan dump trucks remove the rubble to get to thin, multiple layers of low-sulfur coal. The draglines cost about \$100 million and for profit's sake, must stay in continual operation. These machines scalp up to 600 feet of rock, sometimes more, off the tops of mountains. In a process called valley fill, the "overburden" is dumped into valleys and streams, in piles that can be two miles long and over 100 feet high. At least 750 miles of the state's streams have been buried by valley fills. In some counties, according to the Cable News Network (CNN), 20 percent of the land mass has been mined by mountaintop removal. So far, about 300,000 acres of hardwood forest have been destroyed, leaving a monument to greed that astronauts can see from outer space.

Mountaintop removal has been going on for about 20 years, but the size and number of operations skyrocketed in the early '90s. Nothing has held the coal companies in check, certainly not pesky little things like the state Division of Environmental Protection (DEP). After all, the last three heads of the DEP have been coal company executives, appointed by Republican Governor Cecil Underwood, who is, surprise, a former coal company executive. According to the WV People's Election Reform Coalition, Underwood received over \$500,000 from coal interests for his 1996 campaign and his inaugural.

Nor could pesky little things like the Clean Water Act and the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act check the coal companies' endless greed. After all, King Coal has ruled West Virginia for over 100 years. King Coal always figured itself above the law. Or if not above it, at least able to write its own laws, thanks to having a bunch of minions in office on the state and federal level.

King Coal has stepped all over West Virginians. Always extolling the jobs and prosperity the coal industry provides, King Coal was able to keep the people quiet as it killed workers and stole and destroyed their land and water. As the industry mechanized, the number of jobs dropped from over 100,000 in the '40s and '50s to 18,635 jobs in 1998. Production is at an all time high, with 176 million tons ripped from the Earth in 1998. Today, mountaintop removal operations employ about 2,300 people.

King Coal has an equally warped view of the value of life. One coal lobbyist, K.O. Damron, testified to a State Senate Subcommittee that the streams filled in by the rubble from former mountains contained "no significant forms of life." It's pretty obvious that entire ecosystems and human communities contain no significant forms of life, as far as King Coal is concerned.

The unchecked greed, lying and arrogance is finally catching up with ole King Coal. The coalfield residents that didn't sell their homes to the company are mad as

hell. Used to be they could sit on their front porches and listen to the wind in the trees, birdsong, rushing streams and children's laughter. Now they endure the around-the-clock noise of heavy machinery and blasting. The blasting damages their homes, dries up their wells and leaves a haze of dust everywhere. Parents hesitate to let their kids play outside because blasted rocks can fly hundreds of feet.

Of course complaints to state agencies led nowhere. Fed up, citizens turned to environmental groups. The Huntington, WV-based Ohio Valley Environmental

judge's ruling applied only to future permits. That played right into King Coal's hand. Aghast at the prospect of having to follow the law, coal companies began laying off workers. No doubt coal *et al* hoped their creation of a false economic crisis would whip up public sympathy against the judge's ruling.

West Virginia's entire congressional delegation joined in the chorus predicting economic doom for the state as a result of the ruling, although no state or federal agency had produced any studies of how the ruling would affect mountaintop removal mining.

They said they would offer a "legislative remedy." In early November, the *Charleston Sunday Gazette-Mail* did the studies for the agencies. The newspaper found that, under the ruling, coal companies could still bury miles of streams that flow only during rain or snow melt. They could still create large valley fills in the uppermost reaches of stream systems.

That legislative remedy is a rider, most aggressively promoted by West Virginia's Senior Senator Robert C. Byrd. The public has not seen the language in the rider, but its intent is to overturn the judge's ruling, effectively gutting portions of the Clean Water Act and other mining regulations.

President Clinton had kind of, maybe promised to veto any anti-environmental riders inserted onto any appropriations bill. However, Byrd is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. If Clinton threatened to veto a bill with

Byrd's rider attached, Byrd could bring the whole appropriations process to a halt. So, Clinton said he would support Byrd's rider.

That changed on October 29 when Judge Haden stayed his ruling until the Appeals Court hears the case, because of the political hyperbole surrounding the ruling. The judge wrote, "a firestorm of reaction has come forth from Defendants and state government officials, predicting that the Court's injunction will cause unprecedented economic and social dislocation throughout West Virginia." He called the reaction, "at best, misunderstandings and, at worst, egregious misrepresentations of significant portions of the ruling the shrill atmosphere of discord must subside."

At that, the governor lifted the hiring freeze but left the budget cut planning directive in place. Coal companies rescinded their most recent layoff notices. And Clinton backed off his support of the rider. Waffle anyone? Fearing the president might change his mind, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) quickly organized a bus trip to DC.

Byrd refused to meet with the opponents of mountaintop removal. Less than a week after the opponents came to town, Byrd stood before a crowd of about 500 miners. He called the ruling "wrong headed" and shouted, "Coal turns on the lights in the Capitol. Coal turns on the lights in the White House. We are not going to back down!"

On November 16, 30 people protested outside a \$1,000-per-person fundraiser for Byrd in Charleston, WV. The congressional session has now been extended for days after it was supposed to end. Latest word is that the rider did not get attached to the bill that passed. However, Byrd and the rest of WV's Congressional delegation have promised to renew efforts to overturn the rider when Congress resumes.

Whatever the outcome, mountaintop removal is on its way out. What we are seeing are desperate acts by desperate men. We are witnessing the slow death of King Coal. By the industry's own estimates, at current levels of production West Virginia's coal will last another 27 years. Still, King Coal lashes out in its death throes, seemingly determined to take many of southern West Virginia's mountains, streams and coalfield communities and, perhaps, a few politicians with it into the underworld.

For more information contact OVEC, POB 6753, Huntington, WV 25773-6753; (304) 522-0246; www.ohvec.org.



The topsoil in West Virginia is removed, and then underlying rock is blasted away.

Coalition organized actions including trips to mountaintop removal sites for reporters and students, two large rallies at the state capitol, protests and a 490-mile "Walk for the Mountains."

In July 1998, 10 coalfield residents and the WV Highlands Conservancy sued the DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers for issuing mountaintop removal permits in violation of federal laws. Soon, some DEP officials admitted that up to two-thirds of the mountaintop removal permits it had issued were in violation of the law. But did the state concede the lawsuit? Hell no. The coal-puppet governor even tried to pass more laws that would ease some of the ignored restrictions on mountaintop removal.

By June 1999, the litigants were working out details in a settlement of many points in the lawsuit, but one sticky issue would go to trial. On October 20, Charles H. Haden, the conservative, Republican judge trying the case, ruled that valley fills in streams that flow more than six months of the year are illegal under state and federal mining rules and portions of the Clean Water Act.

Opponents of mountaintop removal were stunned. A victory against King Coal? The elation lasted approximately 10 seconds, followed by the knowledge that now the coal slurry would really hit the fan.

Indeed, moments after the judge's ruling, the spin doctors went into hypermode. DEP would file an appeal at once on behalf of those poor maligned coal companies. Ben Greene, president of the WV Mining and Reclamation Association said the judge's ruling, "will bring to a halt any kind of construction activity, not just in West Virginia, but across the country."

The next morning the governor called October 20 "the bleakest day in recent West Virginia history." (Maybe 1972 isn't recent to the governor. That year, 125 people died in a flood on Buffalo Creek when a coal waste dam burst. The disaster led to the passage of the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.) Citing potential "devastating" revenue losses from coal severance taxes, Underwood ordered an immediate freeze on hiring out-of-state travel and capital expenditures for state agencies. He ordered the agencies to develop plans for a 10 percent budget cut, beginning next year. That level of spending cuts, if enacted, could put in jeopardy tens of millions of dollars of federal matching funds.

The DEP chief halted all valley fills in ongoing mountaintop removal operations, even though the

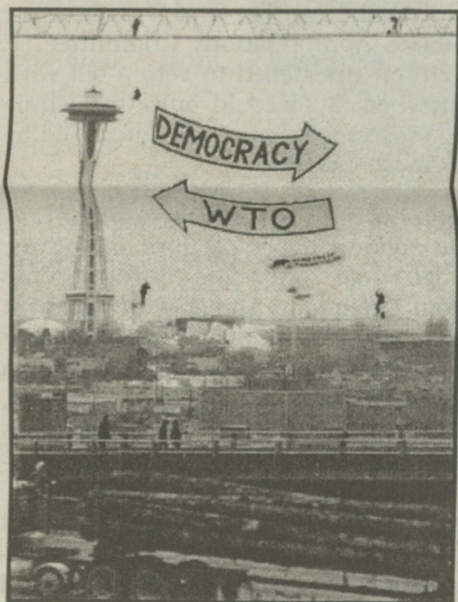
photo by Deana Smith

It's the week before November 30, and all hell is breaking loose in Seattle. The Direct Action Network (DAN) office in the University Baptist Church is the center of the lower reaches, and I retreat to the madness of 60 screaming children in the child care center on the floor below to find some peace and quiet. A bail bonding company calls to inquire if DAN wants to make prior arrangements for mass arrests. Talk about the commodification of dissent.

Every coffee shop in town is overrun by DAN and its meetings. The most promising rumor is that the coffee shop baristas will walk out on November 30, forcing caffeine-addled Seattle to a standstill. I can easily count 45 subgroup gatherings. Everybody and their dog has an anti-WTO campaign going.

Fifteen thousand copies of the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* have a mock cover section wrapped around them, announcing, "Boeing to Move Overseas." Stories inside give the satirical skinny on the WTO, hinting at the state of the world if the WTO succeeds: "Monsanto Patents Food Chain."

November 27. It's three days until the big day, and there's another banner hang downtown. Seattle is saturated with banner hangs. Banners on the freeway overpasses, banners from the University's 100-foot flagpole, banners on downtown buildings, banners from cranes. Meanwhile, the Buy Nothing



Banner hang from a crane, over the I-5 highway.

Day critical mass bike ride has progressed into the Washington Trade and Convention Center, and the cops are madly trying to shoo the circling bicycles out of the downstairs foyer.

Police have circulated anti-riot measures memos to downtown businesses. Advice includes hiding expensive merchandise and stockpiling plywood.

November 28. Two days before. The Capitol Hill neighborhood procession with the giant puppet show heads downtown. Seeing the sea of color and signs and people that have reclaimed this main drag is beautiful. N30 can only be better! Outside Old Navy we stop and chant while the police lines form, "Don't fall into the GAP," an obscure reference to the Fisher family's use of sweatshop labor. There's a sound system mounted in a van, and someone on top of the van is inciting the downtown shoppers, "If you care about justice, then join us in the streets. If you care about sweatshops, then join us in the streets." Even anarcho-cynicalists are moved...

Briefly. For now we are outside the GAP building itself, and the van-mounted marshals direct the crowd to "take two big steps back from the store

Hell No to the WTO—



These protesters blocking the Convention Center on the morning of November 30 were gassed and pepper sprayed, but held their ground as part of a human chain, preventing WTO delegates from attending the WTO ministerial.

so that the police can get in and do their work." N30 can only be worse.

420 Denny, the DAN skills-sharing, workshop, training, meeting and welcome center, is complete madness. Today, there are so many people that you can't move about, harkening back to the site's former life as a hip hop club. Every activist you've ever met is here.

There are thousands of radicals here, and it's impossible to separate action from fiction. Without question, a huge abandoned building downtown is reclaimed by squatters (gutsy to take the building next to the police station). Tonight, my affinity group dines on wine and chocolate, courtesy of the WTO (fringe benefits of a press pass!).

November 29. One day until N30. Like everyone, I am sick as a dog. Sleep deprivation, anxiety and a nasty flu have caught up with us.

The Seattle newspaper headline, "WTO: Whose Idea Was This?", indicates the outrageous and undeserved good media coverage we've been getting. I've never worked on a campaign with this much momentum, where coverage comes so easily. None of us have. None of us have ever done anything like this before.

A "riot" breaks out at a downtown McDonald's. Jose Bove, the crazy French farmer who smuggled many pounds of Roquefort cheese to Seattle to protest the US' WTO-backed punitive tariffs, leads the charge. While the police form their orderly lines, black-clad activists have their way with the McD's. The preposterousness of it, the ease with which the perpetrators get away, the slow police response, puts everyone on edge, giddy with excitement and fear.

Meanwhile, a truly impossible and absolutely unending meeting has embroiled hundreds of people at 420. A spokesperson from each affinity group is outlining the pie-shaped wedge of downtown from which it has agreed to block WTO traffic. The meeting is totally public, and many experienced activists walk away shaking their heads. This will never work.

The big day. November 30. The sensory overload of the last weeks explodes into chaos. I first see a tripod, ringed by a circle of 30 people joined by lockboxes. A small support crowd mills around. Around the corner another group of people is holding hands, circling an intersection. They won't even let activists through. Rather standard, but so far, so good.

Friends tell me that some blockades

are being gassed farther along. Without provocation, the police have busted out fire-extinguisher-sized cans of pepper spray and are hosing down people lying in the streets, locked to one another. But the lockdowns hold their ground, and once the spray has cleared the crowd grows in strength. They spray again, and the crowd grows. At one blockade, activists locked to one another and wearing gas masks are attacked by the police. The riot cops lift the activists' masks, pepper spray them at close range and force the masks back over their heads. Some of the lockdowns start convulsing, the line breaks.

Tear gas is being used now. People emerge, retching, gasping. Delegates milling around the blockades, waiting for a chance to get into the convention center, are gassed too. A sheriff asks a friend standing on a dumpster to let him know when it looks like they will gas again because he and his deputies have been given neither gas masks nor warnings. Concussion bombs and flash bangs sound through the city, amping everyone's adrenaline. My lungs are on fire from the dissipated residue, my eyes are on fire from a direct dose of pepper spray. A boy next to me is screaming from the pain.

A friend limps by, shows me a disgusting brown and purple welt from a rubber bullet. She tells me she's seen others shot in the face. The cops didn't like it when people started throwing tear gas canisters back. I run by a line of cop cars



Locking down to shut down WTO on November 30.

decorated with anarchy signs and disabled by flattened tires.

At another blockade, farther from the chaos, a line of motorcycle cops insists that the lockdowns let them through. When the activists hold their ground, a motorcycle runs up onto the crotch of one of the lockdowns. The line breaks, the cycles ride through, trapping themselves on the other side.

At a calmer intersection, I hear from a sound system that the WTO's opening meeting has been delayed. The audito-

rium of the Paramount, where the meetings were to have started by 9:00 a.m., is almost empty. The trade delegates can't get through. Soon the opening is canceled altogether.

At 11:11 a Reclaim the Street party is supposed to start from Westlake Center. Instead, a small posse of the black clad round the corner and finds a larger army of the anonymous. "Black block! Black block!" the cry goes up. Two hundred people move in chaotic formation

through the streets; shoppers jump back; windows crash; buildings are redecorated. "Whose streets? Our streets!" The unprepared have only their bodies and the tools on the street: legs go through windows; newspaper boxes are hoisted and thrown. Some motions for employees inside a target to step back; someone else runs up, does the job and melts back into the sea of black. Anything not bolted to the concrete becomes a road block. Some



A protester blocks a delegate on November 30.

people want to head straight toward the riot line, but others pull the crowd from direct confrontation. Two hundred people march down the street chanting, "Fuck shit up!" "No cameras!" In the middle of it all, a shopper stands, bag clutched in hand, not cowering from the crowd but paralyzed by curiosity.

Word of the black block spreads like wildfire. Everyone knows these basic facts: black block, property destruction, tear gas, pepper spray, meeting delayed. An ambulance screams past, and the crowd parts to let it through. Cop with a heart attack.

It's early afternoon, and we must stay for many hours to guarantee that the meeting cannot begin. Some activists are very angry about the black block. I see people wearing black attacked by "nonviolent" protesters. A friend is grabbed by an activist and told she's under arrest.

There are standoffs between police and activists all over the city—a lull in action. (Later we hear that the police have run out of tear gas. Undercover cops have to bring in more through the protester's barricades. An armored vehicle drives from police line to police line to resupply.) Today is the only November 30 of my life, and I feel compelled to see it all.

By mid-afternoon the giant labor march finally happens. Certain militant unions are said to be doing some of their own building enhancement. Many of the rank and file abandon the circular

Kicking Corporate Butt in Seattle

route away from downtown to swell our blockades. Thirty thousand people from the march have seen and felt first hand the rounds of tear gas, and are enraged.

State of Emergency has been declared. Everyone out of downtown by 7 p.m. The National Guard is being called in. The WTO has canceled today's meetings. Victory tastes like tear gas.

The black block regroups at NikeTown. Local kids, without masks, who have seen the riots on TV come to join in. Once the window is broken, looters jump in. Peace police surround the building and scream "Nonviolence!" until the real police arrive. White activists stop black kids from looting Nike.

The police are using tear gas to clear the streets. They gas the crowd, run forward, gas the crowd, run forward, in this way reclaiming downtown for the forces of law and order. A smaller group of activists refuses to disperse. They start a bonfire in the streets; they use dumpsters as blockades. Some dumpsters are lit by the protesters; about half are set ablaze by the concussion bombs. A black city councilman trying to attend a WTO reception is brutally ripped from his car and interrogated by the riot police. Oops. As they retreat, the rioters block an intersection, barring traffic until they see a dump truck stalled by the line. They allow traffic through until the truck reaches the intersection and then claim it as a bunker. They're able to hold the police off behind the truck for quite a while, until the cops get tear gas into the sewer system and it begins to pour out of the runoff holes.

In the middle of the battle zone, a punk band has set up a sound system and is rocking out. The scene verges on post-apocalyptic. I re-join my affinity group at the bar. Locals are crowded around the TV, watching the real time riot as it happens outside the door. It's "angry hour" all day today—\$2.25 pints.

State of Emergency is only supposed to extend throughout downtown, but the police have pushed the protesters out of downtown and are now invading Capitol Hill, Seattle's queer center. Residents and bystanders pore out of the bars and restaurants, disbelieving that

an occupying force has descended on their neighborhood. A passive mass faces down the police line and is pointlessly gassed. The crowd regroups and is gassed again. And again. School kids decommission a city bus, chasing off the driver. Two junior high boys try to steal the bus for a joy ride but can't reach the pedals.

This day does end. Sort of.

Day two. Wednesday.

A nearly seamless and sleepless continuation of day one. A crowd a couple thousand strong tries to enter the "no-protest zone" downtown to exercise its rights to free speech and free assembly. There are National Guard officers and riot cops on every corner. Some officers say they have been on duty for over 18 hours. Backpacks, briefcases and people attempting to enter the downtown core



Whose streets? Our streets! Whose world? Our world!

are searched. Some individuals are arrested for wearing, "NO WTO" pins. Over 200 people are arrested en masse before they even reach the no-protest zone. Organizers, medics and people with radios are targeted. Gas masks are outlawed due to the "civil emergency." It's a felony to distribute them. Gas stations are instructed not to sell gas in containers.

Toward evening, a large mass of people forms at the Pike Place Market, tourist central. Unwittingly, they've advanced into the area where Clinton's motorcade is headed. No amount of brutality is spared. The cops fire gas into the crowd indiscriminately, radicalizing every shopper, shop owner, tourist and business person in the vicinity. People try to leave, but the crowd is run through a police gauntlet. Every exit is closed off by riot police; people move forward, but the cops keep gassing.

Replay scene three. Riot cops move systematically through downtown, pushing people up Capitol Hill. Residents take to the streets, screaming,

statement. In the end, just before the final gassing of the night, the crowd is able to agree on a message, and the eerie strain of Silent Night rises up to the heavens, accompanied by the percussion of flash bangs.

420 has become a field hospital. An amazing staff of volunteer medics keeps the movement on its feet. Medics notice that the effects of the gas are vastly different than yesterday. They begin to research the possibility that the cops have used nerve gas.

Word is filtering in about the hundreds arrested this morning. Apparently they are refusing to get off the buses, creating a huge headache for the powers that be. Ultimately, cops pepper spray individuals on the buses to force them to move.

Day three. Thursday.

A friend has made a necklace of the instruments of brutality. Rubber bullets in three different sizes, wooden bullets stained with blood, plastic tubes (they'll shoot anything!). The centerpiece is the head of a gas canister.

A press conference in the morning transitions into a 2,000-strong march through town, stopping at various corporate crime scenes: Weyerhaeuser, Cargill, etc. The march stops at the King County Jail, where our compatriots are being held.

After many hours of negotiations with the mayor and prosecutor, the DAN legal team wins the right to meet with the prisoners, to have activists in solitary moved back into the general population and have those in need of medical treatment seen by doctors.

A friend points out that

not only have we succeeded in stopping a day of WTO meetings, we've shut down commercial TV for several days. There is non-stop coverage of the streets in Seattle and much of the West Coast, and frequent bulletins elsewhere.

Day four. Friday.

As the meetings wind up, Seattle bids adieu to the whole trade mess. Signboards in downtown read, "Bye WTO, It's Been a Riot."

Toward evening three different actions have spontaneously formed. Hundreds of people are sitting down outside the Westin Hotel. A group of six to 10 are sitting down in the middle of the no-protest zone as dusk descends, surrounded by 60 or more riot cops. Another crowd of 500 is sitting down outside the jail. Both the Westin group



Police repeatedly assaulted nonviolent protesters with pepper spray, tear gas, concussion grenades and rubber bullets on both November 30 and December 1.

"This is my neighborhood. People live here." Standoffs ensue. The police retreat, establishing a one block perimeter around their own station. The crowd mills, advances, is gassed. Mills, advances, is gassed. Mills, retreats, is gassed.

The Capitol Hill standoff displays par excellence the ignorant quirkiness of American politics. The crowd of drunks, activists, neighbors and hooligans can agree on nothing. Fist fights break out, not between cops and crowd, but internally. Activists who pull dumpsters into the road to stop the police advance are peacenicked and nearly beaten by violent pacifists in the crowd. A Republican county councilman and his minions spend at least two hours trying to convince the mob to move back to the sidewalk so that he can make a political

and the jail group have decided to hold consensus meetings on how to proceed. The cameras love it. 420 is overwhelmed with requests for blankets and food. The community steps in where organizers no longer can, delivering pizza, bringing cardboard and blankets.

Around 9:30 word percolates that the WTO meetings have reached an impasse. The Caribbean and African delegations are refusing to consent to the agenda. We all hold our breath until the 11 o'clock news. The news announcer says, "A final candlelight vigil against police brutality met on Capitol Hill tonight. They marched peacefully to the police station, where they left burning candles and boxes of donuts." Now, the delegate from the Philippines is talking on the TV. The African trade delegation is addressing the crowd. They say that what they've seen on the streets of Seattle inspired them to stand up to the bullying of the overdeveloped world. The talks have ended in failure.

The world will never be the same.

Chemical Weapons Alert

BY DAN MEDICS

Direct Action Network Medical Collective identified symptoms consistent with exposure to neurotoxins which disrupt acetylcholine.

Symptoms includes pupillary dilation with impairment of vision; rapid heart rate; new-onset high blood pressure; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; abrupt or immediate onset of menstruation; muscular twitches, dyscoordination; lethargy; confusion; and nocturnal hallucinations.

If you were exposed to chemical weapons during the WTO protests and have symptoms discussed above, please make a written, signed and dated account of your exposure, including details such as the location, date and time of your exposure, as well as the nature of your symptoms. Send accounts to Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, (310) 458-2694; psrsm@igc, who are collecting case reports.

If you have chemical munitions discharged during the WTO, please contact the above. Canisters of "CS" or "CN" (tear gas) or "OC" (pepper spray) are not needed—we know they were used.

To detoxify your body:

Scrub entire body with 1-2 cups of epsom salt or sea salt mixed with sunflower oil or water. Exercise, sweat daily and get a massage. Drink nettle tea. Abstain from alcohol, tobacco, sugar and processed foods, for at least two weeks. Take coltsfoot, mullein, yerba santa, horehound and/or grindelia for the lungs. Take charcoal tablets, 1-2 daily, or burn your toast. Eat lots of Potassium rich foods. Also eat plenty of steamed rice, miso and root vegetables.

Long term detoxification: Milk thistle to regenerate liver cells and eat plenty of kelp and other seaweeds. Call the ACLU, (206) 624-2814 or the Direct Action Network, (206) 632-1656 to report your protest-related injuries.

Legal Support Update

Donations are needed for the WTO arrestees legal support effort. Send checks to Direct Action Network, c/o CAN, POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145. Also check the website at www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution, or call (206) 632-1656.

AN INTERNATIONAL N30 ROUND UP

THE MOST BRILLIANT SUBVERSIVE COUP OF MODERN TIMES

BY OSHAN ANAND

May, 1968, Paris: Worker-student uprising brings France (and the world) to the brink of revolution. "Rejecting all morality and legal restraint these cynics do not hesitate to advocate the abolition of work, total subversion, and a permanent worldwide proletarian revolution with unrestrained pleasure as its only goal," judge condemning French students.

May, 1998, London: Thirty years later. Reclaim the Streets (RTS) sends out a call for a global street party in order to create a "web of resistance stretching across the world" during the G8 meeting (annual meeting of the world's eight most powerful nations) in Birmingham, UK. On May 16, cities across the globe party against power and profit.

June 18, 1999, worldwide: A call from London RTS sparks riots, street parties, direct action and creative protest around the world. Grassroots movements in over 30 countries on all continents work together against the global capitalist system (see *EFJ*, August-September, 1999).

Mid-September, 1999, near Seattle: A radical group drafts a call for "a global day of action, resistance, and carnival against the global capitalist system" during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial in Seattle on November 30. The intended common theme of N30 is that "the capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people, societies and the environment for the profit of a few, is the prime cause of present social and ecological troubles."

November 4-December 3, Toronto to Seattle: An international, cross-country caravan stops in dozens of cities and towns, meeting with activists across the country, and working to raise awareness about the dangers the WTO poses to democracy, social justice and human rights. The caravan ends in Seattle joining the massive protest against the WTO.

November 16, Geneva: Twenty-seven people occupy the WTO headquarters. One group occupies the main hall and chains themselves to the main stair leading to Director-General Michael Moore's office with a banner saying "No Commerce, No Organization: Self-management!" Another occupies the roof of the building and deploys two huge banners saying: "WTO kills people—Kill the WTO!" and "Moore aux tyrants." (This is a pun in French meaning "death to the tyrants" and "Moore belongs to the tyrants.")

November 19, Athens: Ten thousand people protest a wide range of issues including world trade during a visit by Clinton. Retreating protesters smash scores of shop windows, firebomb more than a dozen banks and set fire to kiosks and trash cans, cutting a mile-long swath of destruction through a fashionable shopping district.

November 22-29, Turkey: Peasants, environmentalists, trade unionists and others begin a nine-day march in Corlu (northwest Turkey). They march over 2,000 miles, ending at the capital Ankara on November 30. Visiting 18 localities, the protestors make press declarations and hold meetings to explain the attack on humanity and our planet by global capitalism.

November 26, New York: A large crowd gathers erecting a two-story tripod for a street party against the WTO bringing traffic to a standstill in Times Square on one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

November 27:

- **Washington DC:** Activists occupy the offices of US trade representative Charlene Barshefsky demanding "essential medications for all nations." The TRIPs Agreement advocated by the WTO would make it difficult or impossible for poor nations to afford; for example, medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

- **Prague:** Several actions at supermarkets including distribution of free food by Food Not Bombs, distribution of leaflets about WTO and globalization and some direct action takes place. Similar activities occur in other Czech cities.

- **Seoul:** Three thousand workers, students and activists rally against the WTO.

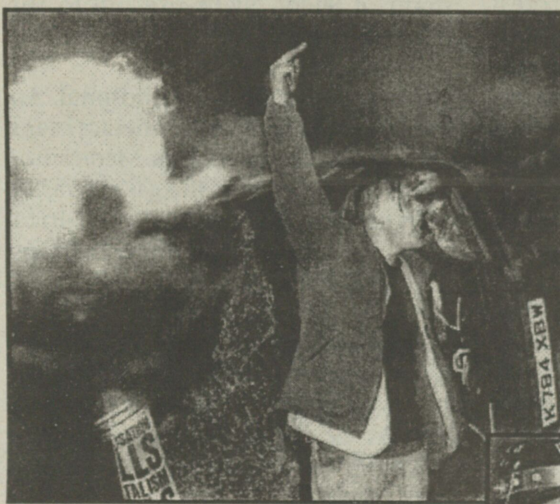
- **Geneva:** Two thousand farmers and 3,000 city dwellers march and rally against the WTO.

November 27-28, France: Seventy-five thousand people in 80 different cities in France take to the streets protesting the dictatorship of the market and the WTO. Meanwhile, Jose Bove and other members of the French Peasant's Federation protest with hundreds of others at a McDonald's in Seattle.

November 29-December 1, New Delhi (India): Five hundred women and men from the Maheshwar area of the Narmada Valley arrive in New Delhi in order to participate in a three-day Dharna (sit-in) at Raj Ghat. Their actions targets the Narmada Dam and the WTO regime.

November 30-December 3, worldwide: A group calling itself the "electrohippies" organize a "virtual sit-in" of the WTO's special conference website

restricting the WTO from spreading its global corporate agenda. Organizers say "The whole event has been about a hundred times bigger than we thought it would ever be."



One less London cop car

November 30:

- **France:** Eight hundred miners clash with cops, ransacking a tax office and burning cars in two towns in eastern France. Thirty people chain themselves to the doors of the Dijon Chamber of Commerce and a nearby bank. In Toulouse, people hang big anti-WTO cardboard on the main

street, with anti-capitalist Santas giving rotten capitalist fruits to Toulouse's people. Some 5,000 more people also protest in other French cities.

- **India:** Several thousand farmers from all the districts of Karnataka march to Gandhi's statue in Bangalore. Representatives from KRRS (farmer's organization), trade unions and others address the crowd on globalization, the WTO and Monsanto corporation. Meanwhile in Anjar (Narmada Valley), there is an anti-WTO demonstration with bullock-carts. More than 1,000 people from around 60 villages participate in the colorful procession, protesting against the anti-human agreements and institutions that are pushing India and the rest of the world into the destructive process of capitalist globalization.

- **Australia:** Activists protest against the WTO outside the Brisbane Stock Exchange. The Melbourne offices of public relations firm Burson-Marsteller are occupied, linking the spin doctors of consumerism with the neoliberal agenda of the WTO.

- **Portugal:** About 300 march through the streets of Lisbon with giant puppets, blocking traffic. During different stops there is firebreathing, street theater and both the city Christmas tree and a McDonald's are covered with graffiti.

- **Philippines:** Militants from a group calling itself the Proletarian Revolutionary Army shatter the windows and metal facade of Shell's multi-story, glass-fronted headquarters in the financial area of Manila, when they opened fire with automatic weapons and

a rocket propelled grenade from a passing van. Around 8,000 left-wing union members and activists rally at the US embassy and near the presidential palace in Manila against Philippine membership in the WTO. Thousands of people also attend rallies in the cities of Bacolod and Iloilo in the central Philippines. Filipinos are also in the thick of the "Battle of Seattle." Thirty Filipinos are slightly injured including University of the Philippines professor, Walden Bello, when police attack protesters.

- **Pakistan:** More than 8,000 people demonstrate against the WTO in the city of Muzaffer Ghar.

- **UK:** Actions in a half dozen cities take place. In London people distribute leaflets and stickers designed to raise awareness against capitalism and the WTO. Students picket a bank to highlight globalization-induced student loan debt. Nigerians and British environmentalists hold a street theatre "People's Court." A rally at Euston Station draws nearly 2,000 people to support public transportation workers and to highlight the links between the free trade agenda of the WTO and the privatization of public transport in UK. Afterwards, protestors make an attempt to block a busy intersection, but confrontations with the police result in an overturned burning police van, 38 arrests and several casualties. A pirate radio station replaces a yuppie one on 106.9 FM across London until it is shutdown.

- **Netherlands:** Police and press gather while over 100 activists unfurl banners in the departure hall and demand free flights to Seattle so they can protest against the WTO. Three airline companies, which have a presence in the Amsterdam airport, are sponsoring the WTO summit.

- **Italy:** A direct action group occupies the headquarters of the "National Committee for Biosafety" in Rome, hanging banners against GMOs and the WTO. A permanent information tent is set up in a central square of Milan to educate the citizens about the WTO, the Narmada and Iloitz Dams, the prison camps for migrants, etc.

- **US:** WTO demonstrations occur in cities across the US including Boston, Atlanta, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Morgantown, West Virginia and, of course, Seattle. Over 9,000 longshoremen in the West Coast were on strike closing down much of the commerce for the day.

- **Canada:** Actions take place in Winnipeg, British Columbia, Toronto, Ottawa and Edmonton.

- **Germany:** In Berlin a parade points out the consequences of globalization at local level, with mock slogans and fake banners crying for more order, more security and more police. Slide shows project on building walls. In Tuebingen 20 people perform street theatre in a shopping area and drop banners saying "Globalize Solidarity not the Economy."

December 2, worldwide: As over 2,000 demonstrate outside of a jail in Seattle where protestors are held, people around the world show solidarity. Some solidarity actions include protesters in Manila trying to force their way into the US Embassy and dozens demonstrating in front of the American consulate in Amsterdam.

December 12, worldwide: Around 500 striking college students in Mexico City demonstrate at the US embassy. After speeches, a clash between riot police and students brings 98 arrests, 10 injured students and six injured policemen. The FZLN sends a press release out expressing their solidarity with the students and condemning police brutality.

(This is but a brief overview of what happened worldwide in response to the WTO. Take a look at www.n30.org for updates and more information about the global day of action.)

May 1, 2000, global revolution: The growing nature of international solidarity and protest is inspiring, and we can expect it to grow and become more powerful and creative. Everyone should take part in the next Global Day of Action: Mayday, 2000. See www.mayday2k.org for more information.



Greetings are exchanged in London.

Beyond Shell's Greenwash: A DELEGATION VISITS RAVAGED NIGERIA

BY MONICA WILSON

Shell is hastily trying to remake its image to that of a clean, safe, people-friendly and consumer-oriented corporation. Shell asks consumers: "What do you think?" about its environmental pledges, human rights promises and claims of commitment to eco-friendly energy sources. But Shell is really asking what you think of its image, empty promises and ad campaigns; if the public knew what Shell was doing to communities in Nigeria, in the United States and is planning to do in Chad and Cameroon, we would see that Shell is not what it pretends to be.

In September, nine US activists visited the Niger Delta, Nigeria's oil region, to witness the impact of multinational oil corporations on the land and people. We went to communities suffering from pollution caused by nearby facilities operated by Shell, Mobil, Elf (French) and Agip (Italian). We met a man who watched as Chevron helicopters ferried soldiers to the

scene of a peaceful protest on Chevron's Parabe platform in May 1998; the soldiers proceeded to shoot and kill two of the protesters (see *EFJ*, September-October, 1998). We met a women's group in Egi who told us their protests against Elf had been disrupted by people paid by Elf to attack the group.

On November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni human rights activists were hanged for telling the world about what Shell did to the land

those who suffer from resulting health problems, unemployment and loss of food sources. In ad campaigns and promotional literature, Mobil, Shell and Chevron claim to be responsible businesses in Nigeria. For example, Shell's web site lists numerous ways it has helped develop the Niger Delta, but visiting the actual places indicates that Shell's portrayal is misleading.

In the Ogoni community of Gokana, a hospital Shell claims to be supporting was in shambles.

There are many concerns about the pipeline. There is no assessment of the social and environmental impact to all areas that might be affected. Local communities have not been told about the risks to forested areas and the many rivers the pipeline would cross. The companies have not released an oil spill management plan.

Additionally, given the track record of Shell and Elf in Nigeria, as well as the history of human rights abuses and corruption in Chad and Cameroon,

another nightmare like that in the Niger Delta seems likely. In an unexpected decision, Reuters reported on November 10 that Shell and Elf have pulled out of the pipeline project and have left Chad, the World Bank and Exxon hanging.

Shell, Chevron, Mobil and Exxon cannot continue getting away with putting profits before people. Many are standing up to remember the dead and fight for the living. As ties grow between communities fighting for environmental justice and corporate

accountability around the world, they come closer to reining in corporations like Shell.

To get involved contact Lawrence Summers, head of the US Treasury and tell him the Treasury should recommend a moratorium on the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline to the World Bank; Department of Treasury, Secretary Lawrence Summers, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20220; (202) 622-2000.

For more information contact Essential Action, POB 19405, Washington DC 20036; (202) 387-8030; mwilson@essential.org.

Editor's note: Beginning November 20, Nigerian military troops occupied the Bayelsa State in the Niger Delta. Hundreds of civilians were reportedly killed by the military and thousands more displaced. According to Oilwatch Africa, the military refused to allow Doctors Without Borders to bring medical supplies to the village of Odi, which was hit particularly hard by the violence.

In Memory of the Ogoni Nine

In memory of our beloved brothers and heroes who laid down their lives that we might live. On November 10, 1995 at 11:30 a.m. Nigerian time, Ken Saro-Wiwa, Dr. Barinem Kiobel, Saturday Dorbee, Paul Levura, Nordu Eawo, Felix Nuata, Daniel Gboko, John Kpuinen and Baribor Bera were hanged by the Nigerian dictatorship in conjunction with Shell Oil.

"I repeat that we all stand before history. I and my colleagues are not the only ones on trial. Shell is here and it is as well that it is represented by counsel said to be holding a watching brief. The company has indeed ducked this particular trial, but its day will surely come and the lessons learnt here may prove useful to it for there is no doubt in my mind that the ecological war that the company has waged in the Niger Delta will be called to question sooner than later and the crimes of that war duly punished. The crime of the company's dirty wars against the Ogoni people will also be punished."

—KEN SARO-WIWA, 1941-1995

According to the doctor and nurse, the water bore hole and tank Shell mentions never worked. The patients have to drink from an open well. And the doctor explained that the drugs Shell provides for sale to patients are more expensive than the ones already available elsewhere.

Shell lists the community of Iko as one of its "spear-head communities" for development. Yet in Iko there is no electricity, fish supplies are greatly reduced, and the storage facility built by Shell has never operated.

Environmental racism in the United States

There is a perception in the United States that such disregard for people and the environment only happens far away. But environmental racism is alive and deadly here as well. Two American activists living near Shell and Chevron facilities who participated in the delegation were surprised by the similarities between their daily lives in the US and those in Nigeria. Their communities share the offensive smells, "booms" from flares that shake nearby houses, and corporate maneuvers to escape responsibility, such as dragging law-

suits out for years. These communities have another trait in common: organized resistance to the multinational oil corporations that are endangering them.

In Norco, Louisiana, a predominantly African-American town renamed after the now-defunct New Orleans Refining Company, Margie Richard works valiantly to force the two Shell operations sandwiching the town to clean up their act. Living across the street from a Shell plant, Margie knows all too well the cost when a greedy corporation holds almighty profits above the safety and health of surrounding communities. Henry Clark, director of the West County Toxics Coalition in North Richmond, California, lives near a Chevron refinery and is working to end toxic emissions and other threats to his community.

Welfare for Exxon, Shell and Elf: the World Bank steps in

In Chad and Cameroon, Nigeria's neighbors, the World Bank is considering funding an oil pipeline operated by three of the world's largest oil corporations: Exxon, Shell and Elf. Not only does this pipeline pose a threat to the people in its path, but if the World Bank funds it, there will be a frightening example of corporate welfare using money from the US and other countries.



The message from Ogoniland is loud and clear.

and people of Ogoni, an ethnic group in the Niger Delta. Four years later, Shell continues to spill, pollute, flare and deceive in Nigeria.

Oil company pollution like oil spills, leaking pipelines and gas flaring harm the environment and wildlife of the Niger Delta. Shell's "clean-ups" are appalling: in Otuegwe, an underground Shell pipeline spilled as much as 800,000 barrels of oil in 1998. This past summer a visiting activist met people who had been hired by Shell to clean up the spill using towels and buckets.

Shell's indignities to the people of Nigeria are not limited to oil spills and acid rain. A community in Umuebulu explained how Shell acquired land in their community, promising to build living facilities for employees but instead dug a large pit and began dumping noxious, presumably toxic waste. Nearby residents are experiencing skin rashes and other health problems they blame on the dump.

The effects of this pollution on local populations is shocking. Oil spills spread and acid rain damages food, crops, plants and animals vital to local people's survival. Time after time the delegation heard stories of reduced fishing stocks and cassava production after oil exploration began.

Many communities ask Shell and other oil corporations to clean up their pollution and compensate

SHELL'S HOSES KINKED

Several anti-Shell actions taken to commemorate the executions of the Ogoni Nine happened in Britain on November 10 along with a number of talks, video showings and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People's (MOSOP) protests outside Shell and the Nigerian High Commission.

In Stockport, activists from Manchester Earth First! hung banners from the canopy of a Shell petrol station while others blockaded the entrances. Customers were persuaded to go elsewhere and the police even began advising them on how to blockade more effectively. Police cars had effectively blocked the station anyway and the activists were told to move or be arrested. They didn't move and one was arrested, though quickly de-arrested.

In Sunderland activists blockaded the Grindon Mill Shell garage, shutting down the pumps and talking to motorists about the company's pollution and links to human rights abuses. Twenty people all but shut down a Shell station in Norwich as they have done on November 10 for the last three years.

Several different Shell stations in Leicester were hit by a roving team of three energised protesters switching off the main fuel cut-off switch, locking pumps, ranting about the issues and running around with a banner saying "Get the Shell out of Nigeria." They also renamed Gallowtree Gate as "Ken Saro-Wiwa Street" for the day.

In London a roving team of two shut down a Shell station, two Texaco's and an Esso with great ease using the same master switch. These rather effective 10-second actions left forecourt staff completely confused while blocking the entrances themselves and calling the head office for advice and the police for a shoulder to cry on.

The Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem Enters the New Millennium

BY GARY AND KRISTIN

As the clocks prepare to roll over to 2000, there is a question on everyone's mind here in the Gem State: Is the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem Y2K compliant?

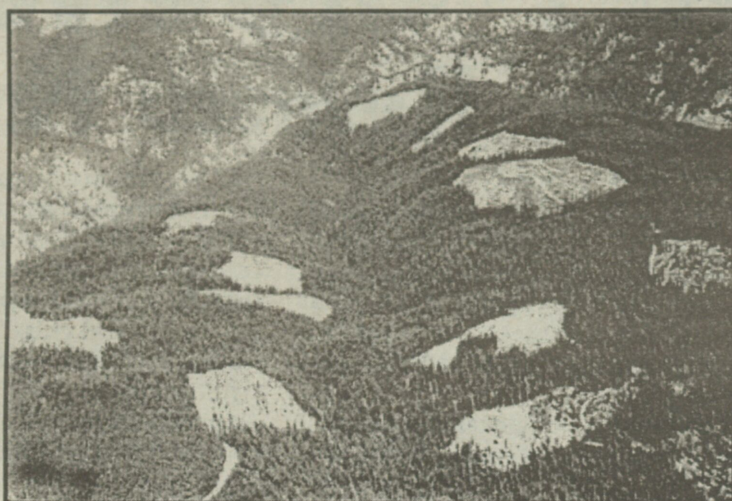
The government bureaucrats are nervous: All species, rivers and mountains have not been tested. How will they perform? To ensure no shutdowns in ecosystem function, the bureaucrats are making certain there is a fresh crop

of meddlesome management projects in place to keep the Wild in line. Ecosystem management for forest health is having the same results—and is about as popular—as HMOs are having on the health of US citizens. Unfortunately for the bureaucrats, activists are vigilantly attacking their meddlesome projects, plus the head bureaucrat is telling them they may have to keep their hands out for good.

Other questions of millennial importance persist: What kind of doctor is Mike Dombeck—Doolittle or Strangelove? Is ecosystem management an oxymoron or just plain moronic? Is the fate of the grizzly grisly, and will steelhead still head for extinction? And with that, we bring you the millennial update on the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem.

These are confusing times because there are some opportunities for real environmental gains, except Bill Clinton and/or the courts have to make the right decisions for those gains to be actualized.

Confusing good news item one is that the Forest Service has now publicly stated that the remaining Cove/



Clearcuts in the Twentymile timber sale in the Wing/Twentymile roadless area, in the South Fork of the Clearwater River drainage.

photo courtesy Cove/Mallard Coalition

Mallard sales (six of nine) won't go forward. It is simply too expensive to do so, plus, it's against the current road-building moratorium. Hooray! Of course, the agency could come up with some kind of logging-for-forest-health sham in the future but probably won't for a while.

Confusing good news item two is the announcement by Clinton (our hero) of a process that might protect some remaining roadless areas in the national forests. Idaho is the state that has the most to gain (or lose) from this process. Of course, citizens will have to demand, in force, that all unroaded areas be protected from all damaging activities (logging, roadbuilding, ORV use, mining, etc.) in the public involvement process that is upcoming. Hopefully the final decision, if it's a good one, will survive legal challenges and political chicanery.

Confusing good news item three is that the court case by Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Sporting Congress, Ecology Center and the Northern Rockies Preservation Project against the Wing-Twentymile Environmental Impact Statement (the roadless Otter-

Wing and Mackey-Day timber sales) is in front of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals with the court waiting to rule on an injunction. Of course, it is contingent upon the folks dressed in black robes doing the right thing.

Anyway, that's enough of that cheerfulness.

Not-so-confusing bad news item one is that the Clearwater National Forest, the northern part of the Big Wild, is hell-bent on logging and trying any excuse to justify it. The

massive North Lochsa Face Project would log some 75 million board feet (the Cove/Mallard sales were projected

at 81 million board feet), much of it from the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area. Another huge project on the Clearwater would ostensibly log to create elk habitat in several roadless areas even though there is little justification that this project would benefit any wildlife. Of course, we all hope confusing good news item two (see above) helps in the effort to derail the Forest Service from this insanity.

Not-so-confusing bad news item two is that the National Marine Fisheries Service and other branches of the federal government are leaning against recommending dam breaching as an

action to restore salmon runs to the Salmon, Clearwater, Snake, Grand Ronde, Wenaha and Imnaha Rivers. Science shows dam removal of the lower four dams on the Snake River is the only way to save Idaho salmon and steelhead from extinction. But nobody believed these agencies would do the right thing anyway, and it looks like more litigation will occur.

Not-so-confusing bad news item three is that the Fish and Wildlife Service is barging ahead on an ill-conceived plan to release grizzly bears in the Big Wild, using a loophole to avoid giving the bears protection under the Endangered Species Act. The loophole can work as long as there are no remnant grizzlies present in the ecosystem. However, persistent, pesky reports that grizzly bears may still inhabit the area—reports the

agency tried to bury and is now trying to discredit—may lead to natural grizzly bear recovery, giving the bears the protection they deserve.

Until next time, don't forget to check your favorite ecosystem for its Y2K compliance. Onward into the new millennium!

Friends of the Clearwater has been at the forefront of administrative and legal efforts to protect the northern flank of the Big Wild. For more information about FOC's

forest watch program contact POB 9241, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; foc@wildrockies.org.

The Cove/Mallard Coalition has been on the frontlines to protect threatened areas and can be contacted at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com.



Cove/Mallard Coalition—ten years of resistance in the Big Wild

photo courtesy Cove/Mallard Coalition

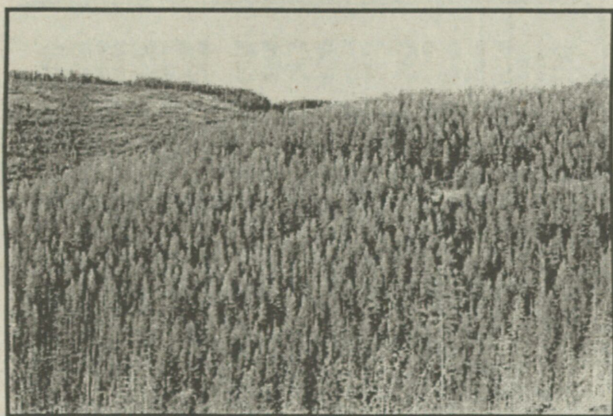
Illegal Logging in Northwest Montana's Kootenai National Forest

BY AARON COFFIN, PHOTOS BY JEFF JUEL

Three years ago Jeff Juel and four other activists locked down to a gate and hung a banner on the road leading to a fire salvage sale in the O'Brien Creek watershed, blocking trucks from hauling away old-growth trees (see *Earth First! Journal*, November-December, 1996). These activists knew what lay ahead for this part of the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana. Juel, with the Ecosystem Defense Program of the Missoula, Montana-based Ecology Center, has followed up by releasing these revealing comparison photos, which expose fraud within the Forest Service's timber sale program.

Not shown in these photos are the 10 miles of new road bulldozed into the steep mountainsides above O'Brien Creek to access the fire salvage sales, which probably cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. All paid for by you, the taxpayers, so that a private lumber mill, Owens and Hurst Lumber Company of Eureka, Montana, could make a profit. The Forest Service's involvement in the Studebaker Fire Salvage is one more reason why the Forest Service's ecologically destructive and fiscally irresponsible logging program in our National Forests must end, as mandated in H.R. 1396, the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act. The Ecology Center's photo series on the Kootenai fraud can be seen at their website: www.wildrockies.org/teci/forestfraud/do-it.html.

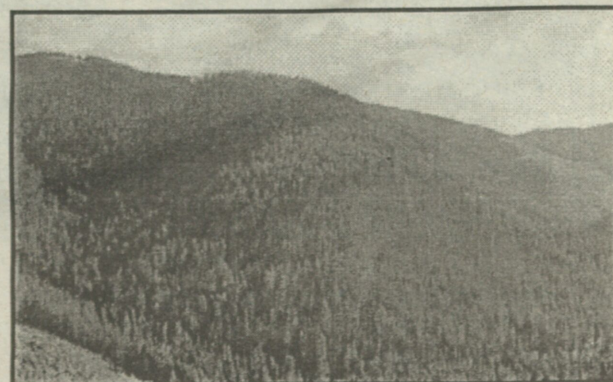
For more information on the mismanagement of the Kootenai National Forest or to find out what else you can do to help protect your national forests, contact Jeff Juel at the Ecology Center, 801 Sherwood, Suite B, Missoula, MT; (406) 728-5733; jeffjuel@wildrockies.org.



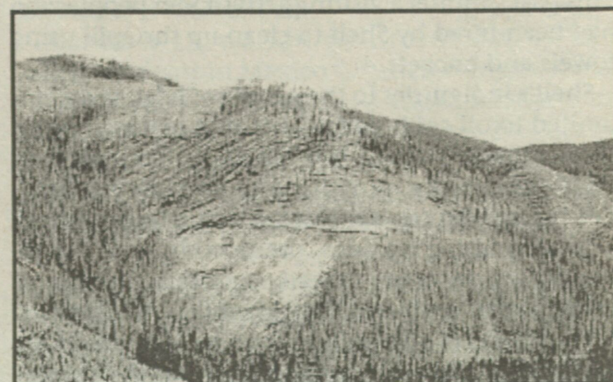
Pictured above is a 1996 view of an area of old-growth forest said to have been "lost in the Studebaker fire" (cutting units 1 and 2). From the EIS's description of this area: "The residual stands have few large diameter trees or down logs, and a greatly reduced basal area. The loss of these key old-growth attributes has eliminated the present value of the old growth habitat in the fire areas."



According to the EIS, "There would be no direct effect to old growth from the salvage logging... Adherence to Forest Plan standards relative to old-growth and snag habitat assist in the avoidance of cumulative effects on old growth and associated species."



This is a view of the main Studebaker Fire area, from across O'Brien Creek. Top is 1996, below is 1998. After the fire and before logging, the EIS said of this area, "These are stand replacing burns that may be considered as an opening in regard to wildlife cover. These areas are considered low value as cover for big-game."



The Forest Service's justification for this atrocity was, "Where catastrophic conditions such as insects, disease or fire creates a condition whereby larger unit sizes will have no additional effect on wildlife habitat, larger cutting units may be used." The FEIS also said, "Recreational users may be temporarily displaced during the salvage activities, but they would return to the area upon completion of the activities."

Suburbia Threatens Wilderness at Florida's Cypress Creek

BY ADAM VOLK

Local activists and groups such as Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN), the Sierra Club and others are coming together to stop the destruction of one of Hillsborough County's last remaining expanses of pristine wilderness. This area, known as the Cypress Creek Preserve, is located in northern Tampa, between the apex of I-75 and I-275. Local developers want to build homes, as well as a road through the preserve.

Cypress Creek is a major tributary of the Hillsborough River, Tampa's primary source of drinking water. This development could very well foul Cypress Creek leaving its water undrinkable. Officials' only response to that is the construction of a desalinization plant and a possible reservoir. Protection of the creek and the surrounding lands will help to ensure the availability of the water this system contributes to the river and the city's drinking water.

The preserve contains more than 6,000 acres of natural uplands and wetlands. The diverse habitats include pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks, cypress swamps and wet prairies. Local planning and environmental agencies have designated the area a "Significant Wildlife Habitat." This ecosystem is critical to the survival of the healthy and diverse population of wildlife that inhabits the region.

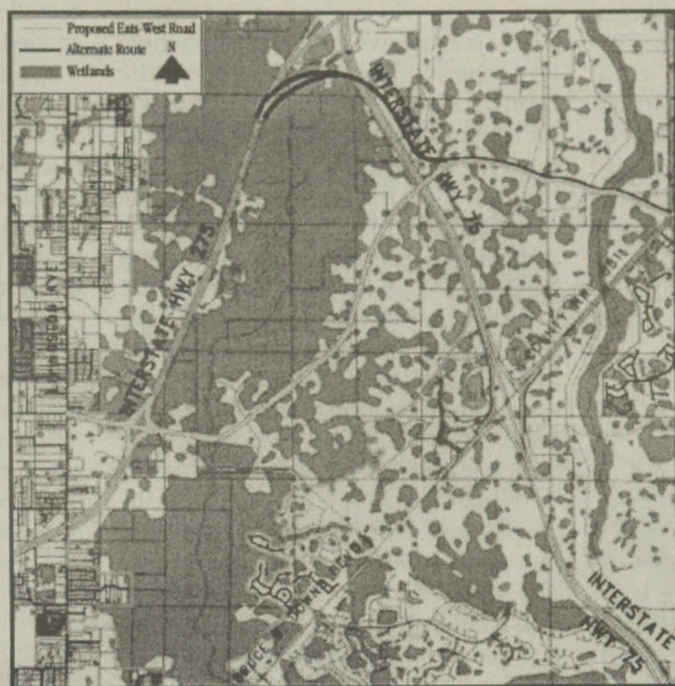
On June 26, 1998, a National Audubon site survey found 420 nesting pairs of birds. A total of nine species were found to inhabit the area, including the little blue heron, the snowy egret, the tricolored heron and the white ibis. These four species are considered "Species of Special Concern." Also found were five nests of the wood stork, an endangered species.

All of these attributes mean that the Cypress Creek Preserve is too significant of an area to sacrifice to the 'dozers in the name of development. While the area has been designated "Environmentally Sensitive" land on local growth management plans, (meaning it is inappropriate for development), Lennar Homes, Inc. will not let this stop them from building.

Lennar currently owns the majority of the Cypress Creek ecosystem and also have government approved plans to build homes on the land. These plans were approved prior to adoption of growth management laws. While much of the wetlands will be preserved, Lennar is exempt from the laws.

Lennar is giving land to the City of Tampa for a major road network called the East-West Road. This road will connect Cross Creek and Bruce B. Downs Boulevards with I-275 and Livingston Avenue. This will split the preserve east and west, and north and south, into four sections.

In the past few years, the local Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) has been working to acquire Lennar's property



Cypress Creek preserve (dark area), home to abundant wildlife, is a rare undeveloped haven in Florida. Local developers want to build homes, as well as a road through the preserve.

within the interstate apex. Unfortunately due to the lands high price tag, ELAPP has only been successful in securing the northernmost 2,000 acres of the preserve. The land ELAPP has acquired is a mosaic of wetlands and uplands. This land will provide shelter for the species in the area, but it is not enough. More habitat must be acquired to assure the creatures will thrive.

Once ELAPP and Lennar finished their most recent negotiations, the City of Tampa began plans to locate the East-West Road directly adjacent to the land acquired by ELAPP. Doing so would bisect the preserve, destroy-

ing the land and making any further land acquisition undesirable. It would also open up all the land owned by Lennar to development.

Despite testimony from many families saying the road was not the correct solution to traffic, the Metropolitan Planning Organization finalized its so called "Cost-Affordable" transportation plan for the year 2020. This plan would place the road directly through the heart of the preserve, and bisect the West Meadows community. The price tag on this little project has been placed as high as \$63 million, hardly cost-affordable.

Mayor Greco, the Tampa City Council and the County Commission need to be made aware that the Cypress Creek

ecosystem is far too important to the animals to sacrifice to the East-West Road and suburban sprawl. Furthermore, they should look into alternative modes of transportation such as rail, and, if they are going to build the road, they must find an alternate route, around the preserve. You can write Mayor Greco at 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609.

Do not let Cypress Creek be taken over by the developers!

For more information, contact FCAN at 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 128, Tampa, FL 33609; (813) 286-1226; billn@fcan.org; www.fcan.org.

BARE BONES

Dam again threatens Bio Bio

The last issue of the *EF! Journal* reported that construction of the Ralco Dam on Chile's Bio Bio River had been halted by Santiago Judge Mario Carroza. However, the latest ruling handed down by the Seventh Chamber of the Court of Appeals renders ineffective the preventive ruling of September 8 and opens the door to restart construction.

Work on the dam, which is opposed by the Pehuenches and various sectors of Chilean society, has been stopped twice. The previous delay took place in 1998, after peaceful occupation by opponents of the roads and the dam.

According to lawyer Roberto Celedon, one of the three lawyers defending the Pehuenches in the trial, the petition did not meet the legal requirements. The principal lawyer for power company Endesa is Pablo Rodriguez, a well-known supporter of former Chilean dictator Pinochet and former leader of the right-wing paramilitary group *Patria y Libertad* (Fatherland and Liberty). In contrast to the court's rapid action agreeing to Endesa's petition, it took more than two years for the courts to resolve to stop construction of the dam.

Sea Shepherd ship sabotaged

The *Sirenian*, a patrol vessel of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was vandalized during the night of October 15 at its berth in Lake Union, Seattle, Washington. The engine room of the cutter was sabotaged, with gauges smashed and wires cut. This occurred as the Makah tribe of Neah Bay, Washington was starting practice runs for its next whale hunt.

The Makah and Sea Shepherd have clashed since the blockage of the tribe's first hunt attempt by Sea Shepherd and other local activists last fall. Sea Shepherd says the US whale hunt is the only one in the world by native whalers in a member nation of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) without the recognition of "cultural and/or subsistence need for whaling" by the IWC, a violation of international law and the federal Whaling Convention Act.

Sea Shepherd is putting out a plea for funds to repair the boat. Contact them at POB 628, Venice, CA 90294; (310) 301-SEAL; (310) 574-3161 (fax).

Wildlife killers revealed

The names and addresses of New Mexico ranchers, businesses and other entities asking for government agents to kill wildlife on their properties at taxpayer expense is being revealed on the website of New West Research (www.new-west-research.org), under the heading of "The Hall of Shame" in the War Against Wildlife section.

After the USDA's Wildlife Services (aka Animal Damage Control) failed to respond to a request for this information, a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit was filed in March 1999 by attorney Richard Mietz. Over 2,000 current "agreements for control of animals" were turned over, which included showing animals to be killed and killing methods to be used. Dozens of agreements also called for harassment but not the killing of sandhill cranes, Canada geese, snow geese and other migratory birds.

In fiscal year 1997, federal agents killed an estimated 10,500 wild animals in New Mexico, mostly on behalf of the livestock industry, at a cost of \$2,256,486. Animals killed include coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, black bears, foxes, badgers, beavers, skunks and prairie dogs.

Protesters Target Toronto Free Trade Meeting



Activists from Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America (ACERCA) and Native Forest Network hung a 600-square-foot banner off the Toronto Metro Convention Centre where trade ministers of 34 Latin American countries (but not Cuba) were meeting on November 4, to discuss the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA is the southward expansion of NAFTA and will encompass all of the Americas.

International activists are worried that the FTAA will expand the disastrous effects of NAFTA. "While NAFTA has had horrendous effects for the indigenous and poor of the Americas and has devastated the environment, the FTAA has even fewer protections for human rights and ecosystems," said Orin Langelle, ACERCA coordinator. "We feel that if the FTAA is implemented it will not only be the death sentence for the rest of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, but will be the death knell for the environment and will widen the discrepancy between the rich and the poor."

The FTAA trade representatives from throughout the Western hemisphere hold in their hands the fate of the 755 million people who reside in the Western hemisphere. Their plan is to further liberalize trade within the region, threatening existing environmental, labor and food safety laws throughout the hemisphere.

For further information, please contact ACERCA, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; 864-8203 (fax); acerca@sover.net; www.acerca.org

MILLENNIUM WHEEL JUNGLE GYM

ANTI-DAM ACTIVISTS TAKE TO THE MONSTROUS PLAYGROUND

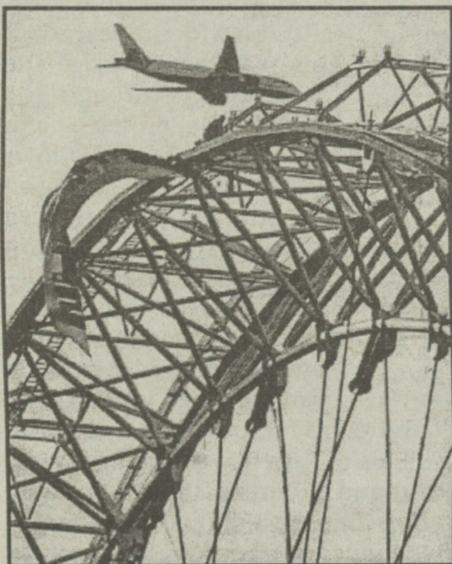
© BY RICHARD WEYNDLING

Editor's note: On October 25, eight activists occupied the Millennium Wheel, the giant ferris wheel on the banks of the river Thames, also known as the London Eye, in protest of the destruction caused by dam projects in Spain and India. They unfurled huge banners with the slogans "Stop The Dams!" "Free Narmada, Free Itoiz!" and "Let The Rivers Run Free!" The action is being taken by Basque environmentalists from the group Solidarios con Itoiz and activists from Narmada UK. On November 8, approximately 40 activists from the Narmada UK movement marched from Covent Garden to the Indian Embassy in London, to protest against the continuation of work on the mega dams on the Narmada river. These dams will make nearly one million people homeless—many of them tribal peoples who depend on the river and forests for their livelihoods. Plans for their resettlement are derisory and many end up vagrants in big city slums. The following article explains the underlying situation behind the protesters actions.

When the Spanish protesters came down from the Millennium Wheel on the Thames last week, they were pleased but also dispirited. On the one hand, their action had captured international press attention; on the other, few people were much the wiser about why they had gone to so much trouble. Beyond limited awareness that they were objecting to a Spanish dam, little is still known in Britain about the group. *Solidarios con Itoiz* (Solidarity with Itoiz) is a small group on the run. The eight people who came to London have all been sentenced to nearly five years in prison for sabotaging work on the Itoiz Dam near Pamplona in the Basque Pyrenees. They expect to be jailed in the next few weeks. If the controversial dam, Spain's longest running eco-pro-

test, is ever completed, it will create a five-mile lake and flood three villages and two national nature reserves. The £500-million project has been condemned by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, criticised by the European ombudsman and is now being investigated by DG11, the European Union's environment department.

The history of the protest is long and involved. In the spring of 1996, with



"Free Narmada, Free Itoiz!"

the press watching, eight of the group used angle-grinders to slice through cables carrying concrete for the construction of the 135-metre-high dam wall. Building work was paralysed for a year. Having cut the wires openly, the group waited until the Spanish paramilitary police, the Guardia Civil, arrived to arrest them. They were then severely beaten and charged with kidnapping for disarming and loosely tying up a security guard who freed himself in minutes.

The Itoiz project was conceived in the early 1970s to take water from the

Pyrenees to irrigate thirsty fields further south via a dam and a canal. Water is a divisive issue in Spain where half the country suffers periodic droughts while the other half has water to spare. Large arable farmers have long been the Itoiz Dam's strongest backers. "The future of farming in the area depends on its completion," says Angel Eraul, president of the pro-dam Navarre Union of Farmers. But the people who live in the valley, like the protesters against the Narmada Dam in India with whom they identified, were upset, understandably, at the prospect of their houses and villages disappearing under water. In 1985, they had started a legal campaign to prevent the dam's construction. They had strong arguments on their side. The Itoiz valley is an area of exceptional beauty and rich in wildlife, containing two nature reserves and a special bird protection zone covered by European Union regulations. Among the many wild inhabitants of the valley is the rare bearded vulture.

Environmental protest is in its infancy in Spain. "The country has only just begun to experience rapid development and many people are still in love with motorways, high-speed trains and dams," says Alvaro Blasquez of the group *Ecologistas en Acciun*. But in the Basque country there have been a number of protracted campaigns, especially against nuclear plants and motorways. Officials have not been sympathetic. In 1992, brushing aside environmental concerns and officially-sponsored reports questioning the economic viability of the project, the government of the Navarre region started building the dam. The environmentalists responded by going to court—and won. The Spanish supreme court judges ruled that the nature reserves could not be flooded and the project was drastically

reduced in size, completely removing the dam's rationale. The European Commission also imposed environmental impact restrictions. But the Navarre government persuaded the regional parliament to remove the protected status of much of the valley and carried on building.

Which is where *Solidarios con Itoiz* came in. According to them, the need for direct action arose because "the law is in the hands of the people who want to build the dam. They only use the law when it suits them. The justice system doesn't work so we needed to apply a different kind of pressure," says Kris, one member of the group in Spain.

Since its creation in 1995, the group has been using every possible means to grab media attention: sabotaging machinery, hanging from lamp posts and perching on the roofs of government buildings. But it was the cable-cutting coup that finally halted construction and earned them nationwide recognition, bitter official condemnation and the draconian prison sentences. Though accepting their sentences, the convicted eco-saboteurs were determined not to go quietly. With the support of local MEPs (Minister of European Parliament), they held a press conference at the European parliament in Strasbourg earlier this month and followed that with their ascent of the wheel in London. They now plan to tour Europe and make as much noise as possible until they are imprisoned. Morale is high despite the prospect of prison, according to Kris of *Solidarios*. "Five years is a long time, but people in the Basque country are used to going to jail for what they believe in."

For further information contact *Solidarios con Itoiz* at solidarios@this.zzn.com; www.eusnet.org/partaide/solidarios; Itoiz campaign at 00 34 948 226128; www.eusnet.org/partaide/itoiz; *Ecologistas en Acciun* at 00 34 91 531 2739; www.nodo50.org/ecologistas.

This article was first published as "Wheel Rights?" in *The Guardian*.

BY CAP'N PAUL WATSON

This article is reprinted from the Yule 1986 edition of the EF! Journal.

Hold it right there. Before you begin to read my incredibly interesting narrative which follows, I want to get something straight. If you are a self-righteous tight-ass who gets morally indignant about correct tactics, you know, the "I agree with your motives, I just can't accept your methods type"—if you are one of THEM, then do yourself and us a favor and read *Time* or the *Greenpeace Examiner* instead. This article does not contain scenes of excessive violence nor does it contain sexually explicit material (unfortunately). It does however advocate the destruction of property because, and pardon me for my old-fashioned ways, I believe that respect for life takes precedence over respect for property which is used to take lives.

Let's get something else straight. The killing of whales in 1986 is a crime. It is a violation of international law, but more importantly it is a crime against nature and a crime against future generations of humanity. Moreover, whaling is a nasty form of anti-social behavior and an atrocity which should be stamped out. So, I don't want any crappy letters about tradition, livelihood, or Icelandic rights.

With that said, we can get into the story.

August 1985: The "Sea Shepherd" makes a stop in Reykjavik while on route to the Faroe Islands. We berth directly behind the Greenpeace ship "Sirius." Across the harbour, we can see the Icelandic whaling fleet tied together. Our plan is



EARTH FIRST!

YULE EDITION
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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL TWO DOLLARS

RAID ON REYKJAVIK

to take on provisions before heading to the Faroes. At the same time, many pictures are taken, port facilities surveyed, security measures observed and a few crew tour the site of a whale processing plant 50 miles from the city...

October 15, 1986: Rod and David arrive in Reykjavik and book themselves into the Salvation Army Youth hostel. Hey, our guys travel first class. They find employment in the local fish processing plant. There are more jobs than citizens in Iceland, so securing employment as a non-citizen is relatively easy.

Three weeks were spent scouting the sites and determining the schedule of the security watches. They waited for an opportunity.

November 8: A stormy day and night in Iceland. Rod and David drive the 50 miles to the whale processing plant. It was Saturday night and the watchmen went home in the evening, leaving the station abandoned.

The two Sea Shepherds break into the plant. The tools are there—sledge hammers, acid and, ah yes, a couple monkeywrenches. The objective is to inflict as much economic destruction as possible. Both men apply themselves to the job for the next eight hours.

The refrigeration machinery was destroyed, followed by dismantling of six diesel engines and destruction of the plants pumps. Engine parts were dumped into the deep waters of the fjord along with

a collection of flensing knives and tools. The laboratory was demolished. The computers were trashed thoroughly and cyanic acid poured into the diskette files and filing cabinets. After eight hours, the plant looked like it had suffered a bomb blast. Damage was later estimated to be about 1.8 million US dollars.

Our two merry eco-commandos then drive back to Reykjavik in the early morning. They go directly to the three whaling ships tied in the harbour. A fourth is in dry dock. Both men go through all the cabins on board the ships. On the third ship, they locate a sleeping watchman. A decision is made to spare the third ship so as to avoid possible injury to the watchman. The wind is howling and the water is choppy and the noise provided by nature covers the activities of the two men below decks. They spend nearly two hours in preparation. The removal of 14 bolts from the salt water sea valve flange results in a massive volume of water spewing into the engine compartment of the ship. The other ship is dealt with in a similar manner a few moments later. The third ship is cut adrift so as not to be dragged down with the two now mortally wounded killer boats.

The crew then calmly walked down to the dock and drove to the airport at Kleflavik 30 miles away. The ships sank within 40 minutes. The police discovered the results at 0600 hours.

At about the same time, our crew were stopped by a routine roadblock on route to the airport...

To find out what happens next, order *Yule, 1986* from our back issues for \$4, or order our almost complete set for \$400.

Villagers Occupy Pak Mun Dam

DISPLACED THAI RISE-UP FOR THEIR ONCE-WILD RIVER

BY SHYAMA SHEPARD AND CHAINARONG SRETHACHAU

The Pak Mun Dam stands on the Mun River, the largest tributary of the Mekong River. It was completed in 1994, making it the most recent hydropower project in Thailand. This controversial dam stands 17-meters high and is the only run-of-river dam currently in Thailand.

The project was built by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and sponsored by the World Bank with a \$54 million loan. EGAT was formed in 1968 after the World Bank and the United Nations influenced the Thai government to create a national, state-owned power utility. Since then, EGAT has worked closely with the World Bank on various hydropower projects. As with other large dams built in Thailand, the Pak Mun Dam was constructed during the dictatorship.

This gave villagers little power to stop construction even though they were strongly opposed to the project. In 1992, before the dam was built, the Royal Fisheries Department identified 150 species of fish in the Pong, Chee and Mun Rivers. But the Pak Mun Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which was conducted by the largest EIA company in Thailand, stated that there were no valuable fish in the Mun River and that construction of the dam would not impact the fish in it. Villagers at Pak Mun and Thai non-governmental organizations (NGOs) appealed to the dam builders to reject the EIA report and restudy the environmental impacts of the project before building the dam. Their requests were ignored by the government EGAT and the World Bank.

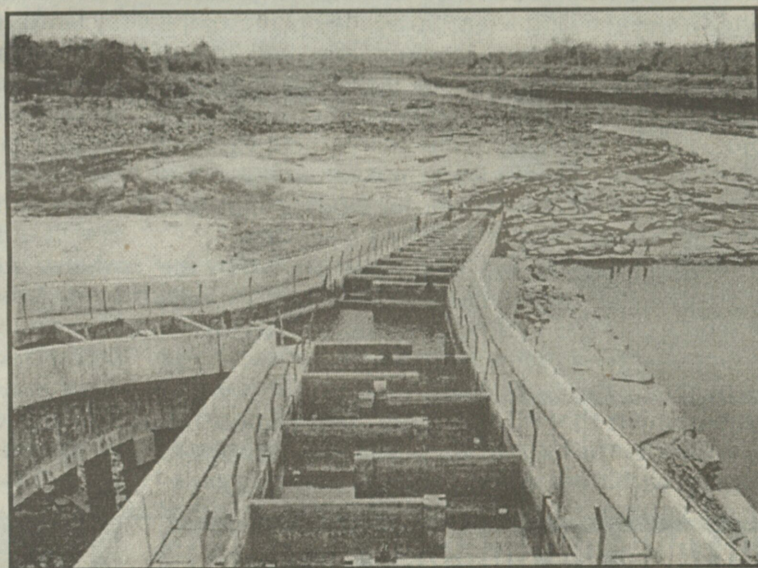
During construction, EGAT blasted a long stretch of rapids with explosives for the dam foundations and downstream channel. The area that they destroyed was known to contain a large amount of particularly savory fish that demanded a high price at the market. The dam also blocked the migration patterns of fish that swam from the lower Mekong upstream to the Mun River and its tributaries. Between 1993 and 1995, the affected villagers from Pak Mun marched upon and seized the dam several times, demanding that the government compensate them for the loss of fish during the dam's construction. During this time, many village leaders and NGO workers were arrested, and EGAT used violence to intimidate the villagers. By 1996, the government was finally forced to agree to compensate the villagers for their lost income and indeed their livelihoods. EGAT also stated that they would solve the fisheries problems by installing a fish ladder after the dam was completed.

The \$1 million fish ladder was EGAT and the World Bank's attempt to appease the villagers. They claimed that the ladder would allow fish to pass over the dam. In reality, however, the fish ladder only added to the fisheries problems. More than 16 rapids as well as large areas of fresh water swamp forest were inundated by the reservoir after construction was completed. EGAT and the World Bank's miracle-cure fish ladder was a complete failure. Only very small fish can make it over the ladder, and big ones that try usually injure themselves and fall back down. It does serve some purpose now though as protesters residing at Pak Mun sometimes use it to hang out their laundry.

Between 1990 and 1994, nearly one hundred rallies, large and small, were staged by dam protesters. They began with a series of pre-dam protests, that—despite extensive media coverage, countless open letters to the Prime Ministers, a meeting with World Bank executives and many promises—still failed to stop construction of the dam.

In mid-October 1994, the villagers staged a peaceful rally on the front lawn of the Ubon Ratchathani City Hall for over a month. They had come together to demand fair compensation from EGAT for the

loss of their livelihood. During the rally, demonstrators set up a farewell exhibition of their fishing tools, hoping to gain the sympathy of the authorities. After the rally, many donated their tools to the provincial museum, having no chance to use them again. In 1997, the villagers from Pak Mun took part in the 99-day Assembly of the Poor demonstrations in front of the Government House in Bangkok to demand compensation for the permanent loss of fisheries caused by the Pak Mun Dam. The villagers had several historic meetings with EGAT, the government and academics to try and resolve this issue. In the end, General Chayalit Yongjaiyut's government agreed to pay compensation of 2.4 acres of land per family (15 rai/family) to each of the 3,080 fisherman families affected by the dam. On April 17 and 29 the Cabinet also



The fish ladder that never worked

passed resolutions to guarantee this compensation. Sadly, however, after Mr. Chuan Leekpai became Prime Minister, the agreement between the government and the affected people was canceled.

On June 30, 1997 the Chuan Government issued a new resolution stating that "no compensation will be paid to people affected by dam construction in the past." Mr. Thongcharoen Srihadham, Chairman of the Villagers Committee for Recovery of the Mun River and its Communities, had this to say about the project: "Before the dam was built, our livelihoods were supported by the Mun River. We did not need to pay for food because we could get everything from the river and the forest. After the dam was built, everything changed. The dam blocked the fish and destroyed the rapids. We became poorer and had no food from nature. Many of our relatives had to move to Bangkok to find work. Our families and communities were destroyed. Moreover, we started getting new diseases—the incidence of liver fluke increased by 50 percent, and we are very concerned about the blood fluke (schistosomiasis) because the snails which host this disease are increasing in number in the reservoir."

Since the installment of the dam, there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of floating weeds in the Mun River and its tributaries that empty into it near the dam. These weeds cause itching and rashes. Before the dam many villagers would bathe in the river. Now if they try to they develop skin problems. The heavily weeded areas are an excellent habitat for snakes and disease-carrying snails, and

the dense weeds make it impossible for the fishermen to use their nets.

The protests have continued. On March 23, 1999, 5,000 disgruntled villagers occupied the Pak Mun Dam to demand compensation from the Thai government and the World Bank. This was the final step. The villagers have settled near the dam and intend to stay indefinitely, until their demands are met. Eight groups of villagers affected by various development projects (including six dams) in north-east Thailand have joined together at Pak Mun to demand reparations from the Thai government. The villagers demand compensation because they've been left with no other options. Their real goal is removal of the dam. In a statement released on March 23, the villagers said: "We, the people who have been affected by development projects, have chosen to seize Pak Mun Dam because this dam is the symbol of development, which has caused us serious social and environmental problems. We will fight until we have justice and the dam builders resolve our problems."

The Pak Mun villagers are demanding compensation of 15 rai of land for each of the 3,080 fishing families who lost their income because of the dam. This is what they were originally promised. If the government and World Bank fail to respond, the villagers are demanding that the dam gates be opened to allow fish to migrate upstream. The villagers also demand funding to correct and prevent the health problems they are now experiencing. Perhaps construction of the dam could be justified if the result produced was valuable. But Pak Mun is a relatively small hydro-electricity

project, and its output could barely power one Bangkok shopping mall. This is what resulted from the destruction of a set of rapids, a unique fishery and a large fishing community. It's quite obvious that Pak Mun Dam was a careless mistake on the part of EGAT and the Thai government. A multi-million



The river once provided for the people of the area.

dollar mistake that the local communities and the environment are now paying the price for.

In a letter sent to the World Bank on March 15, 27 Thai groups stated that the dam "destroyed the Mun River, fisheries and the way of life of people at Pak Mun. The World Bank is responsible for the destruction, cares only about itself and not about people, and that Pak Mun Dam is development only for the World Bank."

The Pak Mun protest village currently consists of about 700 houses and 6,000 people. The people at Pak Mun have formed a strong community. Though the issues they protest may differ slightly, they have all come together to demand that their voices be heard. They have no plans of leaving any time soon. This December marks the 10-year anniversary of the first protests against the Pak Mun Dam, and this is a good opportunity for this issue to be brought to the international level. It's about time that everyone learns of these people's historic struggle.

For more information contact the International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703 USA; (510) 848-1155; 848-1008 (fax); irn@irn.org; www.irn.org or the South East Asia Rivers Network at 25/5 Moo 2 Soi Sukhapibarn 27, Changkhien-Jed Yod Road, Chiang Mai 50300, Thailand; (66) 53-221157 (ph/fax); searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th.

Stopping the Betuwelijn

BY FRANK VAN SCHAIK

In 1991, the European Commission and Council agreed in the Maastricht Treaty on the TransEuropean Networks (TENs), an enormous list of infrastructural projects to facilitate—if not encourage—the immense growth in transport of goods and people in Europe. Largely drawn up by the 43 biggest European Union (EU) companies, the list contains over 150 highways, roads, airports, high-speed rail lines, conventional rail, harbours and canals that are scheduled for construction with an estimated budget of \$420 billion until 2010. In 1996-97 total investment in the TENs was \$40 billion, of which one third came from various EU funds and the European Investment Bank. The rest came from national governments.

In 1994, following a dip in construction, 14 TENs priority projects were identified—projects that were viewed by the people in charge as being of extraordinary importance. One of those priority projects was the Betuwelijn, a 160 kilometer rail line which is supposed to run through the delta heart of the Netherlands, from the Rotterdam harbour to the Dutch/German border. The name comes from the Betuwe, an area between the rivers which is famous for its fruit trees, river landscape and scenic beauty.

Construction and preparation of building sites started in 1995, after a one-year circus of public participation. The government arguments for the railway line (increasing competition, establishing "strategic connections" and helping the environment by replacing road transport) convinced the mainstream environmental movement to agree on conditions, despite doubts from local, freight and economic experts. Local towns and action committees were left very disappointed.

These arguments have all proved invalid, and all the environmental organizations have changed their stance from "yes, as long as" to "no, unless." It now appears that if anything, the Betuwelijn will replace much more environment-friendly water (river) transport. The construction of the line will displace thousands of people and cut through several natural areas. Moreover, the estimated 240 diesel trains per day (one every six minutes) will cause noise and air pollution. Economic and financial experts have shown that the line will never be economically viable, as construction costs continue to rise (\$10 billion now—250 percent of the original budget in 1993), and water and road transport haulers offer better deals. The fact that no private investor has shown interest is speaking bookparts (as the Dutch say).

Finally, this September the Dutch Minister of Transport proposed to not build the so-called strategically important North Branch, originally planned for 40 percent of all freight traffic to Germany. However, the government has stuck with its decision so far and claims to see no reason to change its position.

For a year and a half, GroenFront! (EF! Netherlands) has focused on stopping the Betuwelijn through nonviolent direct action. Some eight houses that are on the construction route have been squatted and actions have been done on building sites, construction offices, and transport conferences, causing considerable economic damage and drawing attention from both press and national security services. Also, Friends of the Earth-Netherlands (Milieudefensie) has launched a campaign to "draw a green line," and included the Betuwelijn as one of the main examples of destructive infrastructure.

Signatures are gathered for a (non-corrective) referendum, but more controversy and discussion are still needed. Finally, the question should be not *how* to facilitate growth, but *if at all*.

For more information contact GroenFront!, c/o DWARS, Oudegracht 229 3511 NJ, Utrecht, Netherlands; groenfr@dds.nl; www.groenfr.huizen.dds.nl.

U'wa Occupy Gibraltar-1 Test Site

On November 17, about 200 militant U'wa Indians occupied the Gibraltar-1 test site in the Samore block in Northeast Colombia to prevent Occidental Petroleum from drilling the area.

The newest oil drilling was set to begin on land that is within 500 meters of the U'wa reserve (as designated by the Colombian government) but well within the traditional territory of the tribe. This area is estimated to hold only 1.5 billion barrels of oil, which would provide only three weeks worth of global oil.

The proposed well site is a mere 300 meters from the U'wa community of Santa Marta, which is reason to question the legal validity of the license granted to Occidental by the Colombian Minister of the Environment, Juan Mayr on September 22. The license was legally justified, in part, through certification by the Colombian Ministry of the Interior that there were no U'wa living in the vicinity between the wellsite and the community's legally delimited area.

On October 12, in an amazing show of solidarity with the U'wa, events were held at Colombian consulates and embassies in 20 cities in 10 countries around the world to demand that the Colombian government and Occidental Petroleum cancel their plans to drill for oil. Actions included activists scaling buildings to drop banners, demonstrations, guerrilla theater, delegations meeting with Colombian officials, letters of protest being delivered, teach-ins, a 24-hour vigil and a statement of solidarity from the communities of the Naramada Valley in India who are fighting to protect their land from being flooded by a mega-dam.

This mobilization was in response to a call by the U'wa who threatened mass suicide if Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum drills on their land, saying that they prefer a death by their own hand rather than the slow death to their culture and environment that oil will bring. This demonstration marks the 507th anniversary of European contact with the Americas and the resulting geno-

cide of indigenous peoples.

As Occidental moves into the U'wa territory it will bring the military and inevitably confrontations. Occidental's Cano Limon pipeline, which runs through the northern part of the U'wa lands in Colombia, has been bombed by

guerrillas 600 times over the past 13 years, spilling over 1.7 million barrels of oil into the surrounding area. The government has militarized oil production and has been persecuting local populations it assumes are helping the guerrillas. Earlier this year, three American indigenous activists were murdered by leftist rebels as they worked with the U'wa.

What this means for the U'wa is an intensified struggle against the consolidated power of government, business and, worst of all, oil. The lands can look forward to being pummeled, the water contaminated and the people harassed by Occidental and the goons who protect its interests. In order to avoid this, as well as the necessity of fighting back as people did when Cano Limon was drilled, the U'wa and people around the world are demanding that the Colombian government follow its own laws and stop Occidental from drilling within the U'wa territory.

For more information about the U'wa Defense Working Group contact www.portal.org; or the Rainforest Action Network at rainforest@ran.org; (415) 398-4404.



Banner drop in San Francisco

photo courtesy RAN

ATTACK ON RUSSIAN ACTIVISTS

Russian police have been arresting and interrogating a growing number of environmentalists in a security crackdown that gained momentum after a terrorist scare in September. Police have interrogated at least seven environmentalists this fall. At least one of them is still in jail. The environmentalists are being questioned about their sources of funding and their links to Western groups. They believe the arrests are part of Russia's increasing anti-Western hostility and paranoia about espionage, especially among the KGB's successor agencies in the Russian security services.

Vladimir Sliviyak, a prominent anti-nuclear activist with ECODEFENSE! and Anti-Nuclear Campaign, who has received financial grants from the Canadian government, was detained and questioned for 90 minutes last month after a bomb explosion in the Manezh shopping center in Moscow. Sliviyak said that plainclothes police detained him outside his building and forced him into a car, where they dangled a small bag of marijuana and threatened him with a three-year prison sentence if he refused to provide information on the bombing. "But 90 percent of the questions concerned my environmental work," said Sliviyak, who was released an hour and a half later. "Ten percent concerned the terrorist act on the Manezh." "They wanted to pretend it had something to do with terrorism," he said. "First they declared that nuclear activists were spies, but that failed, so now they're changing their tactics and declaring us as terrorists."

Another anti-nuclear activist, Alexei Kozlov, was questioned by police on September 7. And a third environmentalist, Yakov Kochkaryov, was arrested on September 6 and charged with drug possession. He is still in a Moscow prison awaiting trial. His lawyer says he signed a confession under duress, but recanted when he gained access to a lawyer. Four other anti-nuclear activists were questioned by police in Yekaterinburg, and one of them had his apartment searched.

The Federal Security Service (FSB), the domestic branch of the former KGB, has publicly declared that many environmentalists are Western spies. Former FSB director Vladimir Putin said that the FSB should keep a close eye on environmental organizations



Russian activists at a nonviolent direct action training.

photo courtesy of ECODEFENSE!

because they are infiltrated by foreign spies. Mr. Putin is now Prime Minister of Russia. Anti-nuclear groups have become increasingly visible in Russia in recent years, holding rallies to protest nuclear energy and the importing of nuclear waste into Russia for storage.

The crackdown on anti-nuclear activists began in 1996 with the arrest of Alexander Nikitin, a former Soviet naval officer who joined a Norwegian environmental group and helped research the storage of nuclear waste from Russian submarines. He was jailed for 10 months on treason charges and is currently on trial. In his first trial, a judge ordered the prosecution halted for lack of evidence, but the FSB continues to pursue the case. Another former navy officer, Grigory Pasko, was the next to be arrested. Because he was a military journalist who wrote about the dumping of Russian nuclear waste in the ocean, he was arrested on espionage charges but was released after 20 months in jail. Police then raided the apartment of physicist Vladimir Soifer and seized some of his personal papers. He was researching the dumping of Russian nuclear waste and a 1985 accident on a Soviet submarine. Although he was never charged, police have refused to return some of the documents they seized. In the same month, a US student exchange coordinator was forced to leave Russia after the FSB accused her of collecting "secret environmental maps" for the CIA.

Lev Levinson, an expert on the Presidential Human Rights Council, said reports of planted drugs have shot up in the past month. He said police just adapted methods from the '60s and '70s. "Then, it was manuscripts of Solzhenitsyn typed on a typewriter," he said, "now, drugs are the most common way."

The Terror of Talisman Energy

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has continued to threaten oil production in the Bentiu and Adar areas of southern Sudan claiming that oil companies working in the nation are "accomplices to genocide." Talisman Energy, a Canadian oil company, has recently made investments in southern Sudan, which the SPLA claims enables the repressive Sudanese government to continue war and organized slavery against their people. After nearly 16 years of fighting, more than 1.5 million people have died through war and famine.

To follow up on their threats the SPLA blew up a pipeline jointly owned by Talisman Energy and the state oil companies of China, Malaysia and Sudan on September 20. The SPLA said the attack was meant to send a message to the oil companies and the government that it will not allow oil to be exploited. The explosion led to the closure of a connected pump station and delays in the shipment of a 600,000 barrel cargo bound for South Korea.

Oil companies first became involved in Sudan in 1978, when Chevron discovered a significant oil field in the southern part of the country. Leery of the area's political instability, however, Chevron sold its oil rights to the Sudanese government in 1992. These rights were bought by Arakis Energy, which gained a 25 percent stake in the Chinese-Malaysian consortium drilling oil fields in south-central Sudan. In October 1998, Talisman purchased Arakis' stake.

Talisman began operating the pipeline, which runs 994 miles from south-central to northern Sudan, last June and currently produces 150,000 barrels of oil per day and is looking to produce 500,000 by the year 2000. This allows Sudan to export large amounts of oil via the pipeline's terminus at Port Sudan on the Red Sea. At US \$10 per barrel, that amounts to nearly \$18 billion a year in oil revenues.

The money from Sudan's oil production has allegedly already strengthened the hand of the northern-based National Islamic Front (NIF) which has been accused of waging a genocidal war against the Black, Christian South by Human Rights Watch and by the US Congress.

Macram Gassis, the Catholic Bishop of Sudan, links the survival of his people with the cessation of oil production. "If the oil is pumped, we are finished. The Sudanese government will then be able to buy the weapons to wipe us out completely. Why are Western companies aiding in this pipeline project? No human life, no innocent Sudanese life, should be sacrificed to the pursuit of this oil money."

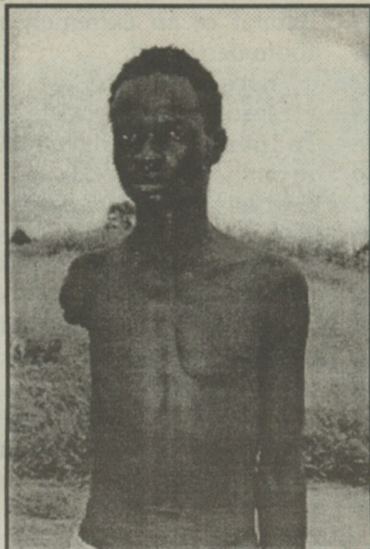
The US government banned trade with Sudan in 1997 because of human rights violations, but Talisman is still openly traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Talisman and the other companies are not only providing cash to the government but also providing incentive for genocide. With pressure from the Boston, Massachusetts-based American Anti-Slavery Group, the US has begun to lead an international divestment campaign of the area, with many members of Congress recently speaking out.

The rich southern oil fields are home to indigenous people, most notably the

Dinka. The only way that oil companies can get the oil is by removing the people. Talisman has already begun a partnership with the Sudanese government. Jesse Sage, associate director of the American Anti-Slavery Group, reports that in June, 1,200 Sudanese troops backed by tanks and planes destroyed villages near the Talisman Unity oil field. In other raids, men have been killed and women and children carried off into slavery. Buy and sell slavery is still common in this north-central African nation.

Jim Buckee, the CEO of Talisman, has said that without his corporation's investment in the Sudanese economy, "the alternative is stagnation." While officials at Talisman claim that their investments are being used for the economic benefit of all of Sudan, Sudanese officials freely state that the money that the companies pour into the country enables the government to continue the slaughter. Parliament Speaker Hassan Turabi has said that oil revenues would be used in the construction of weapons factories. Bishop Gassis reprimands Talisman. "It is a pity that some in the West still adore the golden calf, but do not see the suffering of their brothers and sisters in Sudan."

—FROM *EF! JOURNAL AND DRILLBITS AND TAILINGS*, SEPTEMBER 8, 1999



Victims of the Sudan oil wars



Photos courtesy of the American Anti-Slavery Group

Russian Pledge to Halt Nuclear Dumping Seen as Little Cause for Optimism

BY SERGEI BLAGOV

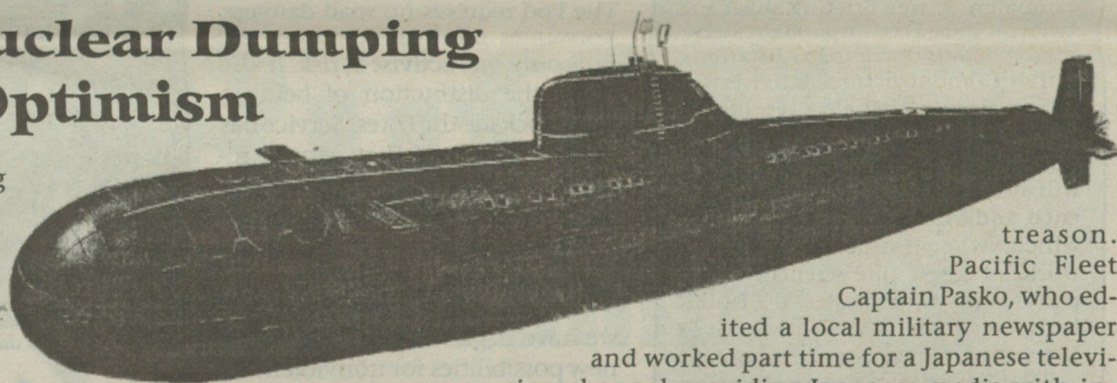
A Russian regional boss has promised to stop dumping nuclear waste off the coast of the country's Far East, but environmentalists argue that the resolution of the problem is a long way off. Russia will never dump radioactive waste in the Pacific Ocean, the Primorie region Governor Yevgeny Nazdratenko has promised his Japanese counterparts. But experts say the cash-strapped Russian government simply does not have the money to properly dispose of nuclear waste and the country's old nuclear subs. Once upon a time it was seen as a nuclear Armageddon, but now the fleet of Soviet-built nuclear submarines is rusting, posing a threat of radioactive leaks.

Until 1990, the Soviet Navy routinely dumped radioactive waste. There were 13 areas of nuclear waste dumps in Arctic seas and 10 areas in Far Eastern waters, according to Russian environmentalists Alexander Emelianenkov and Andrei Zolotkov. Their data suggested that between 1964 and 1991 the former Soviet Union dumped 4,900 containers with solid nuclear waste in Arctic seas and 6,868 containers in the Pacific. Furthermore, the Russian Navy sank a total of 57 vessels with nuclear waste. Sixteen decommissioned reactors also were sunk, including six with remaining unloaded fuel.

The Russian Navy continued the practice of

dumping liquid nuclear waste in the Far East until Japan agreed to assist in a waste disposal project. Since the Soviet collapse in 1991, the US and other countries have provided sizable funding to help Russia dismantle and destroy its weapons of mass destruction, including aid to scrap subs. Russia has set up a cleanup body that receives aid from the US and Norway to dismantle the subs in a safe way at Arkhangelsk, some 300 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle. Russia has signed a nuclear safety declaration, aiming to reach a binding multilateral agreement to clean up its huge accumulations of nuclear waste. The pact was signed by foreign ministers of the so-called Barents Euro Arctic Council, which gathered the Nordic region nations. Eighteen nuclear submarines will be dismantled next year, and new techniques are being developed to speed up the process, the Associated Press reported November 16.

However, it remains a tricky task to get answers in Russia as to how overseas aid is actually being spent. When naval journalist Grigory Pasko started investigating the alleged disappearance of \$100 million that Japan gave Russia to stop dumping nuclear waste at sea, he was charged with



treason.

Pacific Fleet

Captain Pasko, who ed-

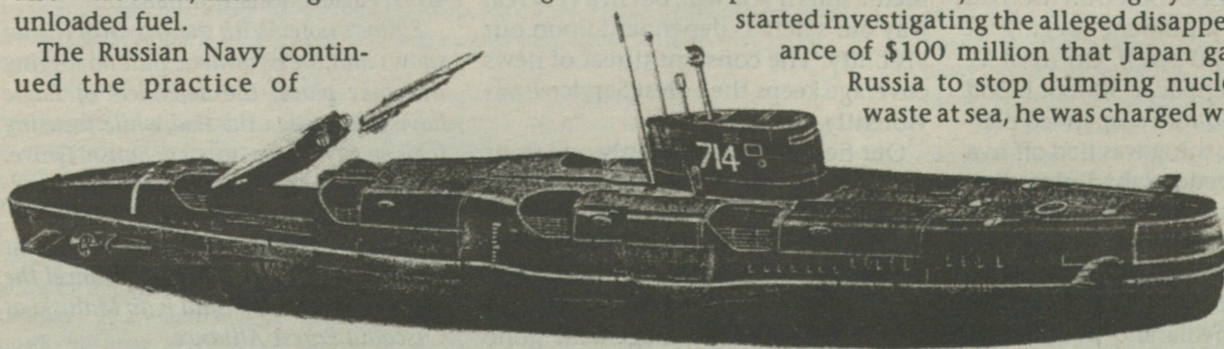
ited a local military newspaper

and worked part time for a Japanese television channel providing Japanese media with information on the Navy's nasty practice of dumping nuclear waste at sea, spent about two years in detention. Last July he walked out of the court room a free man under amnesty.

Pasko insisted the Federal Security Service (FSB), the principal successor to the KGB, wanted to cover up the story. Of Russia's 150 nuclear submarines decommissioned, so far only 16 have been properly dismantled, and form reactors of 42 subs spent fuel have been simply unloaded, according to Vladimir Goman, former head of the parliamentary committee on northern Russia, who now chairs the Federal Committee on northern Russia.

Nonetheless Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi has promised another \$200 million in aid to Russia for the dismantling and scrapping of decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines in the Far East during a recent G-7 summit in Cologne, Germany.

"It would be naive to think that the designers of nuclear reactors did not know about the dangers of handling the waste," said Vyacheslav Perovsky, retired Navy captain who now works with Energy Technology research center in St. Petersburg. "I think the masterminds of the Soviet nuclear naval programs intentionally ignored the problem of disposing waste and old reactors. Probably, they decided—just from the beginning—to dispose by sinking old subs into the ocean," he said. According to Goman, the proper disposing and reprocessing of all the subs and waste accumulated in Russia is likely to cost up to \$100 billion.



BARE BONES

Documentary about Julia Butterfly wins prize

The 20-minute documentary, *LUNA—The Stafford Giant Tree-Sit* won a prestigious award at the Okomedia International Festival of Ecological Films in Freiberg, Germany, on October 10. The Hoimar von Dufurth Prize for "the best journalistic portrayal of ecological problems for children and young people" was presented to director James Ficklin.

LUNA is the story of Julia Butterfly's first two months of living in an ancient giant redwood tree to prevent it from being cut down by Pacific Lumber Company. James Ficklin's other documentary *Fire in the Eyes* was also featured in the festival, though it did not receive an award. It was the subject of many discussions as it shocked viewers from around the world with its images of police brutality against non-violent Earth First! activists in Humboldt County, California.

AgrEvo—a call to action

The AgrEvo company is currently planning to spread genetic pollution in the UK on an unprecedented scale. Of 24 genetically modified organism (GMO) release sites, 23 belong to AgrEvo (and its subsidiary PGS). They are scattered all over the country. The company is behind the three remaining farm-scale trial sites of oilseed rape and has supplied seed and chemicals for the farm-scale trials that were successfully fought by campaigners during the summer.

At the recent gathering of anti-GM activists in Totnes, Devon, AgrEvo was identified as one of the key targets for the next stage in the genetics campaign. A free briefing sheet has been produced by Corporate Watch—giving details of company locations, activities and structure. Activists will be focusing on its field sites, offices and on persuading its investors to take their money elsewhere. AgrEvo will be renamed Aventis Crop Science, and will be owned by Aventis—which, when formed, will be the world's biggest "life sciences" company. With annual sales of £12 billion, Aventis will tower over Monsanto, Novartis and Dupont.

For more information contact Corporate Watch, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG (please send SAE for 45p); +44 (0)1865 791391 (phone/fax); mail@corporatwatch.org; www.corporatwatch.org. For winter AgrEvo test site locations, contact GenetiX Snowball at 0161 834 0295; genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk or Genetic Engineering Network at 0181 374 9516; geneticsl@gn.apc.org.

Salmon and bass surge after dam is demolished

Atlantic salmon have returned to the waters of Maine's Kennebec River above the site of a 162-year-old dam that was recently torn down to allow the fish to swim upstream. Striped bass have also returned in very large numbers. The stripers have been feeding on alewives that have also swum upstream from the Atlantic.

The removal of the 24-foot high Edwards Dam was ordered in 1997 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the good of the environment. The dam was about 40 miles from the Atlantic, 917 feet long and blocked salmon, shad herring and other fish from swimming to their spawning grounds. The Kennebec River has also been cleaned up significantly.

Potent Mixture of Creativity: Eagle Sit Nests in for Winter

BY LEPRECHAUN

A thick blowing mist envelops me, obscuring my view of everything but the nearest trees. It feels almost eerie as I rock back and forth suspended as though floating in the fog. Lounging in a framed cargo net covered with tarps, I examine the rigging suspiciously. Clipped off to my right is a nest of cable and nylon nooses. Six shoe-string sized cords splay out downwards into an elaborate spider web of tiny supports. Peering through the netting my vision swoops seventy feet down to cold hard pavement. I wonder if I could survive such a fall. The engineer's words are fresh in my mind—"It doesn't look completely safe." I observe. "It's completely safe unless they try to manipulate it," he explains. "And if they do?" I ask. He pauses...

Six miles up Forest Service road 4615, in Oregon's Mt. Hood National Forest, sits a 580-acre parcel of roadless area. It is home to rare plants and animals and supplies drinking water to Portland area residents. Blocking logging access to this pristine virgin forest is an alien matrix of thin ropes that we call the "Pod." Erected on July 11, it is our latest effort to prevent the Forest Service from transforming our dwindling native forests into a giant timber management experiment. The Pod is a delicate intersection of imagination, calculation and fragile human life. It is designed to defend against climbers and cherry pickers, and is fully supplied to withstand a siege. The Pod requires no road damage, consumes minimal resources and puts only one activist at risk. It also holds the distinction of being a road blockade the Forest Service has publicly admitted they cannot remove. The rigging is complex but the tactic is as simple as it is severe: If they mess with the structure, the activist dies.

This year at the Eagle timber sale we have begun exploring exciting new possibilities for nonviolent direct action forest defense. Utilizing a potent mixture of creative structures and savvy media management, we have put the Forest Service on the defensive. In early March we built Sunset, a large treesit 160' up a giant Douglas fir. We chose the location to publicize the discrepancy that exists between the Forest Service paperwork description of the forest and its actual characteristics. In dispute is the Environmental Impact Statement's claim that the harvest area contains no old-growth forest. In stark contrast to the description is Sunset Grove (unit 2). When confronted by reporters, the Forest Service was forced to admit that the massive trunks were indeed, old-growth trees. We like to joke that the sit can't be illegal because technically the tree doesn't exist.

Our next defense debuted on the road to prevent the imminent logging of Unit 5 (roughly 20 acres). On April 31 we erected Launchpad, a 30-foot bipod connected to a 70-foot suspended platform. The whole thing was tied off to a gate that the Freddie's had closed to isolate the treesit, preventing them from reopening it. Ha! This structure stumped the Forest Service for two weeks, until finally, they successfully lowered the structure. The media and public were

barred from the scene and two activists arrested, one whom was very nearly killed during the dangerous extrication. Within a week Unit 5 was cut and with it, the thirteenth known Oregon habitat of an extremely rare mushroom destroyed.

That's where the idea for the Pod evolved. Aerial blockades such as the Pod impede access directly but also serve to promote a larger strategy. By erecting a wholly defensible barrier we send a clear message to the Forest Service: "Here we are, were not going to hide in the city and be quiet, this road is ours now and you have to deal with us." The goal is to provoke conflict, to ignite public debate, to get noticed.

Without our own private skywriting airplane, we've had to recruit the mass media (groan). I would compare mainstream media relations to the art of

completely insane. Yet, despite overwhelming opposition the Forest Service continues to push the cut. Wielding federal authority, it appears they intend to see the trees fall no matter who objects.

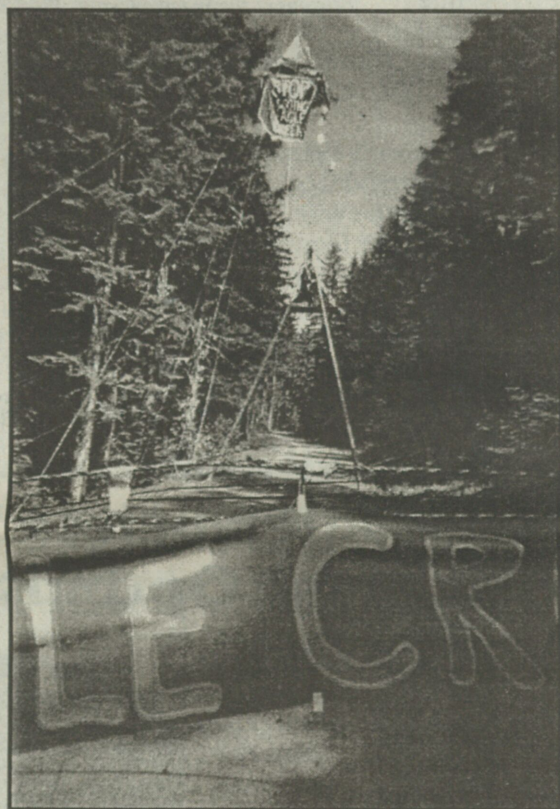
Whatever they believe, some things are certain: We won't back down; we won't be silenced; and we're not leaving. With less than three percent of our undisturbed natural forest left in Oregon, every last tree is precious. The Eagle sale is a rare example where environmentalists, politicians and loggers agree. The only ones who don't seem to get the message is the Forest Service.

True to form, the Forest Service has issued a waiver to allow year-round logging at Eagle, with a specific order to cut Sunset Grove (the area of our treesits) the moment we leave regardless of the season or weather conditions. This order blatantly violates their own seasonal operating guidelines, proving our point that much further. We are demanding that this waiver be revoked and the Eagle sales be put on hold while President Clinton's roadless area policy is being developed. Unless this happens we plan to occupy our treesits throughout the winter, isolated by deep snow. Soon the drifts will be deep enough on the upper road to replace the Pod sealing off the roadless area. Come next spring we plan to stand ready, bigger, better, badder. During the last seven months we have shown that it is indeed possible to beat the Forest Service. We've outwitted them and outtalked them. We have proven that a tiny group of activists (sometimes as few as two people) can hold the deforestation juggernaut at bay. Ultimately, our success will depend on our ability to act with swiftness, decisiveness and unity. To fight effortlessly with passion and courage and to embrace the ways of strategy is our challenge and we will meet it. The forests of Eagle Creek will not fall.

Wrought of necessity, efficiency has become our creed. Yet, no matter how efficient our action becomes, the fact is we are desperately understaffed and underfunded. Activists, philanthropists, we need your help to realize our visions of saving Eagle Creek. When it comes to the wise use of limited resources, we guarantee that Eagle gives you the most bang for your buck. Finally, I would like to thank all of the people who helped make Eagle a success this summer. Special thanks to Finn and Squirrel for getting arrested on behalf of the rest of us.

For further information and directions contact the Cascadia Forest Alliance POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 241-4879; eagleaction@hotmail.com.

Editor's note: With the arrival of winter snows and the assurance that no logging will take place, the defenders of Eagle have dismantled the Pod while focusing their energy on the treesit in Sunset Grove. The president's recent roadless announcement may affect the threatened area. "Clinton's proposal gives the US Forest Service a chance to honorably cancel the Eagle timber sales," said Ivan Maluski of Cascadia Forest Alliance.



The dangling Pod (front) and a biopod at Eagle

deadly snake charming. Keep them enchanted and you're a magician, screw up and you're dead. We've worked very hard to use the media to our advantage, with mostly positive results. The process usually works something like this. First we antagonize the Freddie's on our terms. Next we entice the media to come witness the mayhem. Finally we unleash our secret weapons, Cascadia's brightest, a few choice individuals who are calm, intelligent, knowledgeable and capable of looking a TV camera in the eye without flinching. The value of such people cannot be overestimated. I remember watching the glowing box in delight as Cascadia Forest Alliance spokespeople thoroughly embarrassed the Forest Service puppets on the nightly news! Magnificent. Call us media sluts if you will, but in a very real way our safety is dependent upon our visibility. The constant threat of news coverage keeps the Forest Service from violently attacking us.

Our field campaign is only one front of a much larger battle that has been raging over Eagle for the last four years. Sold under the infamous 1995 Salvage Rider (and thereby exempt from legal challenges) the Eagle sale is a perfect example of forest management gone

Stop the Slaughter

Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working in the field every day to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild Buffalo.

Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers defend the buffalo on their traditional winter habitat and advocate for their protection. Our daily patrols stand with the herd and the ground they choose to be on, and document every move made against the buffalo.



Come to Yellowstone and fight for the Cause!



Volunteer for the Buffalo!

By Tiffany Brown

Despite an unusually mild Montana fall, winter is coming. When the snow flies this season, the struggle will resume between activists working to protect the Yellowstone buffalo and the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL). Since the winter of '96-'97 the DOL has sought to slaughter migrating buffalo entering Montana, because of the fear of brucellosis being spread to cattle. The state's fears are based solely on speculation. Cattle and bison use these public lands at different times of the year, and there has never been a documented case of brucellosis being transmitted from buffalo to cattle in the wild. The buffalo and your fellow activists need your help.

In a recent editorial distributed to newspapers throughout the region, the Montana Department of Livestock announced their intention to continue the slaughter of migrating buffalo from Yellowstone National Park. The agency went so far as to compare expectations of the coming winter with that of '96-'97, when it slaughtered nearly 2,000 buffalo.

The Buffalo Field Campaign has grown and activists are re-grouping in West Yellowstone. A core of dedicated volunteers is gathered, but we still need experienced activists to join us for the winter. The dynamics of the Buffalo Field Campaign are unique. We are in the backcountry patrolling the boundaries of Yellowstone N.P. and bordering areas everyday, all winter. We are part of the small town Montana commu-

Buffalo Field Campaign

PO Box 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758.

1-406-646-0070; fax: 1-406-646-0071

buffalo@wildrockies.org; <http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo>

nity of West Yellowstone and receive tremendous local support.

Winter along the border of Yellowstone National Park is a world of white silence; sprawling snow-filled valleys whisper intimately, separating all pasts and any future. One's breath and ski stride are the only sound to accompany contemplation. But fear and anger can invade instantly.

The State of Montana maintains a buffalo capture facility adjacent to the park boundary. The facility, used to bait wild buffalo for capture and slaughter, is situated on private property owned by Dale Koelzer. Koelzer, a buffalo hating old man, leases additional buildings and basement space to the DOL enabling them to facilitate their winter extermination of the remaining North American wild buffalo.

After BFC volunteers found and reported a mutilated buffalo carcass on the park boundary FW&P officials questioned Dale Koelzer. Koelzer denied having any information or involvement with the poaching of the bull bison. He later called the Montana State Veterinarian, who works closely with the Dept. of Livestock, at home to confess his crime. Koelzer has recently been charged with three misdemeanors for poaching a bull bison on his land. After severing the head, hide and genitalia, Koelzer dragged the carcass to the park boundary and left it for the bears. Though it is illegal to bait grizzlies, a threatened species, Koelzer has not been charged for this.

Recently at the DOL headquarters in Helena, Montana protestors demanded that the state cancel all contracts with criminals. Their demonstration made no wake in heed of the cattle industry's political and economic influence in the state. The Department of Livestock is carrying on with their intentions for this winter's slaughter. Koelzer fucked up and has given us a golden opportunity to demand that all contracts between he and the State of Montana be terminated. We need help. It is our presence, voices and actions that can force compliance.

Winter is coming and volunteers are rallying, but we need you, too. We must continue to be seen and heard, and we must continue to educate and activate our defense of the wild buffalo.

The Buffalo Field Campaign (formerly Buffalo Nations)

Buffalo Field Campaign is the only group working on the ground, everyday, to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of the Greater Yellowstone buffalo herd. Volunteers from around the world stand with buffalo who range outside of Yellowstone in order to call for the protection of these magnificent animals. Buffalo Field Campaign advocates for increased participation of Native American tribal governments in buffalo management.

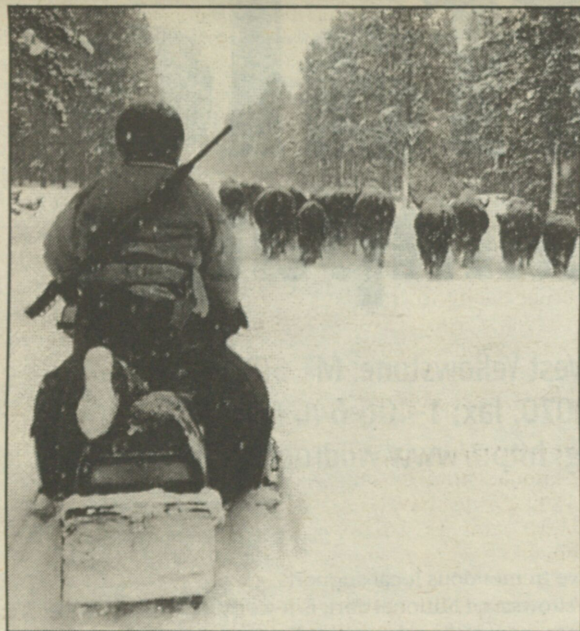
Buffalo in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are not protected on their year-round habitat. Yellowstone Park does not provide sufficient winter range for the resident herds of wildlife due to the deep snows at its high elevations. Animals leave the park in order to forage on lower elevation grasses necessary for winter survival during harsh winters. When the buffalo follow their instinctual migration routes to lower elevations, they unwittingly enter a conflict zone where their needs for survival are undermined by Montana's politics.

During the winter of 1996-97, almost 1,100 Yellowstone buffalo were slaughtered when they crossed the arbitrary park boundary and entered Montana. These killings, combined with deaths from the unusually severe winter, resulted in a loss of nearly two-thirds of the Yellowstone buffalo herd. Today the wild herd is about 2,500 buffalo.

In the winter of 1997-98, volunteers worked to prevent another massive slaughter by patrolling the Yellowstone Park boundary, monitoring buffalo movements and documenting DOL actions against the buffalo. Although 11 buffalo were killed, our presence and effective media coverage showed the DOL that they could not kill the buffalo who left the park without the eyes of the world watching.

Buffalo Field Campaign volunteers stand with the buffalo all day from sunrise until sunset. We monitor buffalo that leave the park, shepherd them to safety when necessary, and take non-violent direct action to stop the DOL from capturing and killing buffalo. Our patrols watch buffalo from cars, skis, and snowshoes.

Buffalo Field Campaign enjoys the incredible support and participation of people in the local community. Landowners allow us to post signs on their property designating them as "Buffalo Safe Zones." We offer a fence maintenance and repair service to mitigate damage caused by wildlife. Locals join us on our daily rounds, and many support our patrols with hot drinks and warm food.



Greg Raisman, BFC photo.



"I was riding down the trail on the snowmobile at sunrise when I passed snowmobilers. The guns on their backs were for the buffalo. I turned to follow them. Suddenly they made a sharp left and stopped; they had found the buffalo. I pulled my sled between the guns and the buffalo. I knew that's what I'd do. There was no soul searching, none of that. It is why I'm here. The cops cuffed me. The DOL agents shot all six buffalo while I sat there watching, helpless. I fell to my knees and cried, and screamed, and prayed. That was the hardest, the darkest, most frustrating thing I have ever witnessed."
—BFC Volunteer

Schedule a showing of Buffalo Bull" in your community. Contact us for more info!
Tax deductible monetary contributions to Camp will be used for housing, food and gas. Please consider supporting Buffalo Field Campaign... your money will be used wisely. Hold a benefit in your community! Unlike other national organizations, we are in the field with the buffalo 365 days a year!
This is a grass roots effort. If you don't speak out... who will? Pass this newsletter and info on to your friends and family.

For the buffalo!

January 7— As dawn broke over Yellowstone, BFC volunteers shepherded 10 grazing buffalo away from the buffalo capture facility. Eleven other buffalo had been lured with hay into the facility by the DOL the night before. One captive bull freed himself. Before the buffalo could escape the outermost fencing, DOL security blocked the only open gate. The buffalo saw the truck and broke through a closed gate as he jumped out to freedom. Eight of the ten buffalo remaining in the pens were shipped to slaughter, and three volunteers were arrested for taking non-violent direct action to stop the transport of the buffalo to slaughter.
—BFC Volunteer.

Mid April—The DOL conducted a major militaristic hazing operation in West Yellowstone with 2 helicopters, 3 all terrain vehicles, a motor-cross bike, several four-wheel drive trucks and 2 horses. Three pregnant buffalo ducked into the woods to escape the chaos and gave birth. The newborn calves spent their first 2 weeks in a hidden grove with their mothers, north of the Madison River.

Buffalo Field Campaign Gives Thanks to Seeds of Peace for Feeding Campaign Volunteers!!!!

Seeds of Peace is a non-profit organization which supports a variety of environmental and social campaigns by providing logistical and kitchen support since 1986. Seeds of Peace is now in its third season of cooking for the Buffalo Field Campaign. Seeds of Peace provides at least three meals each day for the campaign volunteers from October through May.



Support the Bison Legal Defense Fund

Last winter's slaughter of 96 buffalo was accompanied with the arrest of 22 activists and many civil rights violations. Protesters were repeatedly arrested on false charges. Bond restrictions were imposed which made it illegal for arrestees to be within 1500 feet of Department of Livestock operations. The illegality of these arrests and restrictions were in large part ignored by the justice system. In the more blatant cases, which were documented on videotape, charges were dropped only after the winter had ended and the buffalo returned to the park.

These arrests, the false charges, and the severe conditions of release are examples of increasing power plays by the DOL and their attempts to thwart those protecting the buffalo.

The agencies responsible for the buffalo slaughter will use these tactics again this year. A defense fund has been established to provide bail and legal assistance to those arrested while saving buffalo.

PLEASE! Support the Bison Legal Defense Fund and help us stay out of jail and in the field where the buffalo need us. Send non-tax-deductible donations to: Bison Legal Defense Fund, POB 496, West Yellowstone, MT 59758. For more information email: dan@wildrockies.org



Yes! I'd like to help support the Buffalo Field Campaign

Your contributions go directly to front line protection of the last wild buffalo.

Name _____ ☐ Here's a tax deductible contribution, send receipt
Address _____ ☐ Sign me on to the petition
City, State, Zip _____ ☐ Put me on your email list
_____ ☐ Put me on your Mailing list
email _____ ☐ Send _____ copies of our newsletter to redistribute
contribution \$ _____

Please send contributions and requests to:
Buffalo Field Campaign PO Box 957, West Yellowstone, MT. 59758



Brian Daly, CMCR photo.

Showdown at Horse Butte

Spring, 1999— The State of Montana broke laws and violated citizens' rights while capturing and slaughtering America's last wild buffalo.

In an attempt to immobilize Buffalo Field Campaign activists, the State arrested them on false charges, imposed bail restrictions to prevent them from being present at capture and hazing operations. They also repeatedly intimidated and threatened people. DOL agents knowingly violated Forest Service regulations and hazed buffalo through closed bald eagle critical nesting habitat on snowmobiles. In April and May, the DOL repeatedly hazed pregnant females and other buffalo with cracker-barrels from snowmobiles, ATVs, trucks, helicopters, and horses.

On March 18— the same day that the Montana State Legislature was hearing HB 643, a bill to transfer buffalo management to a wildlife agency instead of a livestock agency— more than 20 law enforcement officers from a variety of agencies gathered near West Yellowstone. They came to remove a blockade maintained by BFC volunteers that had prevented construction of the DOL's planned bison trap at Horse Butte for 2 months. Six activists were arrested, the blockade removed, and construction of the new facility was underway.

Later the same day, four buffalo walked from the Duck Creek trap to Horse Butte. When the law enforcement agents saw the buffalo approaching they blocked the road with their snowmobiles.

Volunteers who were walking with the buffalo were then followed by the agents, who tackled one without provocation and handcuffed him. Two others were quickly apprehended. The fourth videotaped the incident and was repeatedly assured that he would not be charged or arrested. When the sheriff arrived, the volunteer was taken into custody and his radio, video camera, and tape were confiscated. The activists spent a day in jail without charges being filed. Fortunately, the videotape clearly showed the charges to be false, and 3 of the 4 cases were dropped, with the last one still pending.

Previously, volunteers arrested while protecting buffalo were released on \$175 bail or on recognizance. This time the state prosecutor requested bond to be set at \$500. Conditions of release restricted the arrestees from going within 1500 feet of both capture facilities and all DOL operations. Although no one was convicted, everyone arrested was banned from private and public lands including National Forest and National Park lands. The legality of those restrictions are currently under challenge in court.

By the third week of March the bison trap was nearly complete. The first major capture effort at Horse

Join us on the Front Lines or Support us from Afar!

We are on patrol all day, everyday, defending the buffalo on their critical winter habitat outside Yellowstone National Park, documenting every action taken against them. We have immediate openings for field volunteers. All volunteers are provided with room and board in a log house on Hebgen Lake, near West Yellowstone, Montana. If you can't visit in person, your tax-deductible contribution will make our patrols possible. Please contact us for volunteer information or with questions.



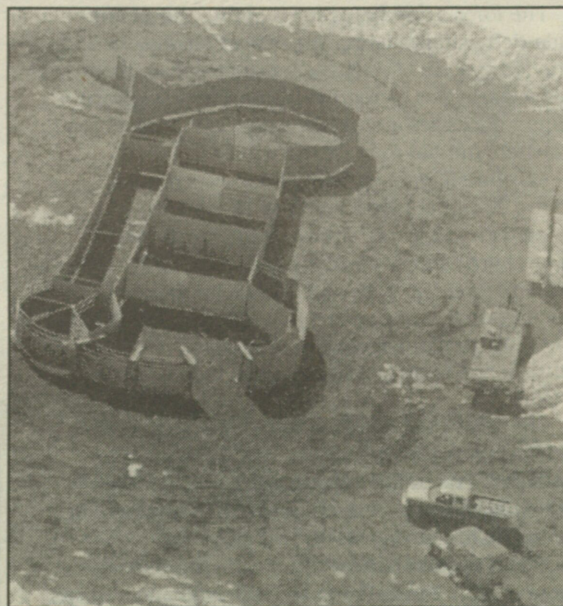
Butte occurred on March 31. With the help of numerous law enforcement officers, the DOL cordoned off the area and hazed 29 buffalo into the trap, 18 of which were shipped to slaughter. Activists video documented two DOL special use permit violations, including snowmobile hazing within 1/4 mile of an eagle nest site, and hazing within 1/4 mile of open water. They submitted copies of the videotape of these violations to both the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Forest Service, who only issued a warning to the DOL, refusing to shut them down.

On April 14, the DOL conducted their largest bison capture of the year, capturing 71 buffalo at Horse Butte and slaughtering 45. Six other buffalo died from injuries incurred in captivity. Four buffalo died while being held by the DOL. Two pregnant females testing negative for brucellosis were released by the DOL only to die from injuries sustained while confined.

Five BFC volunteers were arrested while protesting the capture and another 4 were illegally detained and never charged with a crime. One volunteer was tackled, cursed at, and held to the ground by DOL agents, although he did nothing to provoke or resist the arrest. After being detained and threatened for over an hour he was released with no charges.

From mid-April on, the DOL engaged in numerous hazing operations, scaring buffalo with cracker barrels from motorized vehicles and stampeding them back to the park. Many of those buffalo were about to or had just given birth. That harassment and stress can cause serious complications resulting in the death of mother and calf.

The arrests, the false charges, and the unreasonable conditions of release set by the court are examples of increasing power plays by the DOL in their attempts to thwart our ability to protect the buffalo. If we are to overcome such obstacles and save the last wild buffalo, we will need your help. Talk to your friends and spread the word about the issue. Write your elected officials and urge them to stop the slaughter. Contribute to the Buffalo Field Campaign so we can continue our campaign of non-violent civil disobedience and protect America's last wild, free-roaming herd of buffalo.



Project Lighthawk, BFC photo.

Solutions to the Problem

- Buffalo should be managed by wildlife agencies employing contemporary wildlife management techniques with full public involvement and in conjunction with Native American tribes.
- Cattle vaccination would protect livestock far more effectively than, and at a fraction of the cost of, the current war against the buffalo.
- 98% of the lands used by the buffalo outside National Park boundaries are our National Forest lands. The Forest Service should close grazing allotments, or at least modify the stocking dates of such allotments to minimize buffalo/cattle overlap.
- If the buffalo herd grows beyond a truly science based carrying capacity of public lands adjacent to Yellowstone, buffalo could be relocated to 47 tribes who want to re-establish wild herds on tribal lands. Wild buffalo could be restored on public lands suitable for their recovery.
- The Department of Livestock is the wrong agency to control the fate of these magnificent creatures. Buffalo are not cattle and deserve all the protections that other wild species receive. All decisions affecting the buffalo should place emphasis on maintaining wild, free-ranging, self-sustaining herds.
- Under no circumstances should your tax dollars be wasted to pay for the capture of Yellowstone bison on public lands.

Speak Out for the Buffalo!

It just takes a moment and can help make a difference! Use your pen, phone, or computer to urge our public officials to stop the slaughter and implement some common sense solutions to the problem (above). Letters to the editor of your local paper are also a great way to let people know about this atrocity. Check out our website (<http://www.wildrockies.org/buffalo>) for more info and speak out for the buffalo and future generations!

Mike Dombeck, Chief, Forest Service,
Auditor's Bldg
201 14th Street, S.W. at Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 205-1661
email: Mike.Dombeck/wo@fs.fed.us

Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture
200A Whitten Bldg
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20246
Phone: (202) 720-3631; Fax: 202-720-2166

Let their bosses know that wild buffalo are important... do they even know what is happening?

Pres. Bill Clinton;
email: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice Pres. Gore;
email: vice.president@whitehouse.gov
The White House mailing address is:
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-1414; Fax: (202) 456-2461

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-7351
email: exsec@ios.doi.gov

Robert Stanton; Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
email: dir@nps.gov

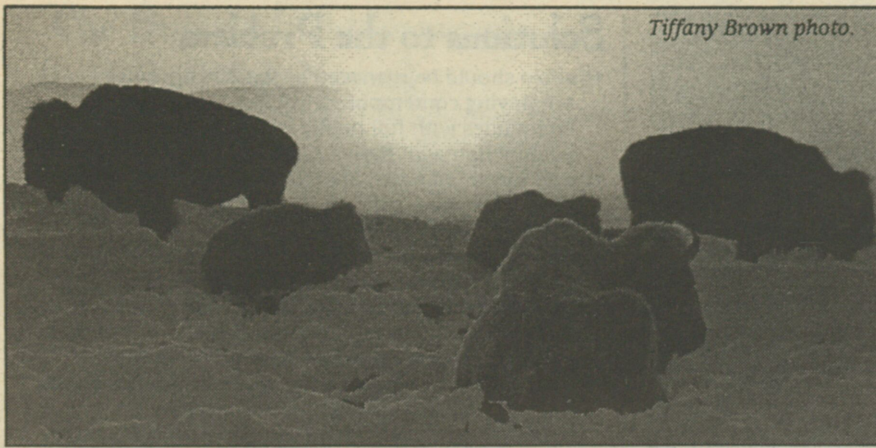
Montana Folks responsible for the killing:

Montana Department of Livestock
Box 202201
Helena, MT 59620
The DOL's acting director is Marc Bridges. Phone from Montana at (800) 523-3162; ext. 3 or from out of state (406) 444-2023

Governor Marc Racicot
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: (406) 444-3111
within Montana: (800) 332-2272
fax: (406) 444-4151

Montana Tourism Development & Promotion Division;
Travel Bureau of Montana
Matthew Cohn, Director;
email: matthew@travel.mt.gov
Will you spend your money in a State with such politics? Phone calls are good (& free)... (800) 847-4868





Tiffany Brown photo.

"I squeezed into morning ski patrol the first day I was here, and have since fallen in love with the routine. Wake at 5 am... put on all the warm clothes I own... ski out to the park boundary in the dark... run in place to keep warm as we wait for the sun to rise while squinting into the trees for the unmistakable silhouette of buffalo. Then there's the horror in the pit of my stomach, and adrenaline rush when we realize buffalo are on unfriendly private land and susceptible to the DOL's guns."

—Kristin M.

The "Crisis" In Current Buffalo Management

State and Federal management agencies justify killing buffalo by saying the buffalo pose an unacceptable risk of brucellosis transmission to Montana cattle, and that the cattle industry must protect its brucellosis-free status. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease present in both domestic animals and wildlife such as elk, deer and moose. Infected domestic cows tend to abort their first calf and then birth normally, although it does not seem to affect wildlife.

Facts:

- The available scientific evidence demonstrates that the risk of brucellosis being passed to cattle is extremely remote. There has never been a documented case of brucellosis transmission from buffalo to livestock in a natural setting.
- In Grand Teton National Park, buffalo and vaccinated cattle have co-mingled for over 40 years without a single cow contracting the disease.
- Management agencies have not addressed possible brucellosis transmission from wildlife such as coyotes, elk, deer, moose, and others. If managers truly believe brucellosis is a threat, they would manage the disease instead of the buffalo.
- The federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will not revoke Montana's brucellosis-free status if the state tolerates the presence of "low risk" buffalo such as bulls and calves. Of the 1,095 buffalo killed in the last two winters, almost half posed a low risk for transmission (346 were bulls, 149 were yearling calves).
- Costly cattle import restrictions, imposed by other states, are supposedly feared. Yet, only the federal government can impose restrictions, and all states must respect the federal brucellosis classification.

Is History Repeating Itself?

Sixty-five million buffalo once roamed America from coast to coast. Buffalo were essential to the survival of Plains Indians, providing spiritual guidance, food, shelter, and tools. 19th century American military leaders recognized the Indians' dependence on the buffalo and launched an all out attack on the Indians' very source of life. Buffalo were killed by the millions and their remains were left to waste on the prairies. By 1900 only a few hundred buffalo remained, most in captivity. In the remote backcountry of Yellowstone National Park, the last 23 wild buffalo survived, the ancestors of today's herd.

By 1997 the Yellowstone buffalo herd numbered 3,500— one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history. Unfortunately, the success was short lived. Buffalo are no longer welcome on the public lands outside of Yellowstone, their traditional winter habitat, having been displaced by powerful cattle interests. The buffalo slaughter of the 19th century has resumed. The State of Montana and federal government agencies are killing the direct descendants of the buffalo brought back from the brink of extinction in the last hundred years.



Meghan Fay, CMCR photo. 1997.

What Happens to Buffalo Entering Montana?

Buffalo that cross the invisible park boundary are put into the deadly grasp of the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), an agency with no wildlife management training or experience. DOL agents chase, capture and kill buffalo that enter the state. However, the DOL's mandate is to promote Montana's livestock industry—the ultimate dis-incentive for managing a wild buffalo population.

When buffalo enter Montana, DOL agents on snowmobiles, ATVs, horses or trucks round them up and force them to run for up to ten miles and over barbed wire fences back to the park. As the snow accumulates, continued hazing stresses the buffalo unnecessarily and causes winter kill. Buffalo Field Campaign documented a herd of over 100 elk running from a DOL snowmobile during bison hazing, running over barbed wire fences, and getting injured.

DOL baits their capture facilities with hay or rounds up buffalo and hazes them into the trap to test them. These traps are a maze of cattle fences and plywood that funnel captive buffalo into small chutes for testing. This process subjects wild buffalo to unnatural confinement, which causes the animals to break horns, panic and gore each other. DOL agents hit captive buffalo with sticks, shock them with cattle prods, and chase them with Bobcat mini-tractors.

The test that the DOL conducts is a blood test which can only prove that the buffalo might have been exposed to brucellosis, not that they have or could transmit the disease. About 50% test positive and are sentenced to death, even though most of those, because of sex, age or reproductive status, could not, if infected, transmit the disease.

According to the results of tissue and blood tests conducted by State and Federal officials during the winter of 1991-92, less than one-half of one percent of Yellowstone bison were infectious. Of the 218 bison sampled, not one, at the time of death, was capable of transmitting brucellosis bacteria to cattle.

The DOL even shoots buffalo in the field without testing them for brucellosis. Even worse, in the winter of 1996-97 the DOL shot buffalo in the field even after they had already captured and released them after they tested negative for brucellosis.

The Yellowstone Buffalo

Yellowstone buffalo live in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as part of an intricate web of species who depend upon each others presence for survival. Scientists call buffalo a "keystone species" which reflects the crucial role they play in the perpetuation of a functioning ecosystem.

The forests and fields surrounding Yellowstone provide rich wildlife habitat for many endangered and threatened species. Grizzly bears, gray wolves, trumpeter swans, eagles, peregrine falcons, lynx, wolverine, harlequin ducks are among the animals that roam the lands where buffalo roam in the winter.

Sagebrush, grasses, and wildflowers dot the meadows. National Forest lands on Horse Butte is speckled with old-growth trees. Southeast from the butte lies burnt and downed lodgepole for pine marten and woodpeckers. Slopes and bottom lands contain a mosaic of Douglas-fir and Lodgepole forest. An incredible diversity of plant species including slender white paintbrush and large-leaved balsamroot grow on the peninsula.

The Yellowstone buffalo herd have established a winter/spring migration corridor that leads them to Horse Butte. The buffalo winter there and calve in the spring. Grizzly bears need the essential food source of winter killed buffalo carcasses that they find.

When the sun has melted the deep snows, and the time is right, the buffalo use these wildland habitats to return to Yellowstone Park.

A History of the Yellowstone Buffalo

1810— 65 million wild buffalo in the United States

1850-80— 80 million buffalo shot, their remains left to rot on the prairies

1872— Yellowstone National Park established

1895— 800 buffalo remain in the United States, most in captivity

1896— 23 buffalo left in Yellowstone; wild buffalo on the brink of extinction

1902— 21 buffalo reintroduced to Yellowstone from herds in Montana and Texas

1907— Bison Ranch established in YNP's Lamar Valley

1917— Brucellosis discovered in Yellowstone buffalo (introduced by cattle)

1952— Bison Ranch ceases operations

1954— 1,500 buffalo in the Park; Park officials decide Yellowstone can only support 400 bison, start shooting bison inside the park

1966— 397 Buffalo left in Yellowstone; Park implements policy of natural population regulation; shooting stops

1985— Montana Legislature enacts bison hunt; "hunters" can apply for a permit

1988— 2,750 buffalo in Yellowstone

1989— Buffalo hunt stopped due to public opposition

1991-95— Montana Fish & Game shoot buffalo leaving park in winter

1995— 4,500 buffalo in Yellowstone; Montana legislature gives control (shooting and capture duty) to the Department of Livestock (DOL)

1996-97— During a severe winter, DOL and NPS kill 1,084 buffalo; an estimated 1,800 die from the severe winter; herd reduced by two-thirds

1997-98— Buffalo Nations Field Camp formed— volunteers protect buffalo leaving the Park; DOL kills 11 bison; 1,700 wild buffalo in the Yellowstone area, few elsewhere

1998-99— DOL slaughters 96 buffalo. Many BFC volunteers are arrested protesting the capturing and slaughtering.

1999— Tatanka Oyate Mani, "They Walk for the Buffalo," a 500 mile native walk from South Dakota to Yellowstone in February. Tribal Consultation with YNP held in May. National Day of Prayer held.



Buffalo Video Available

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers has a compilation video available on the Yellowstone buffalo. *Plan B, The Buffalo's Alternative* is a brief scientific advocacy piece on long-term management strategies to allow buffalo to roam free in Yellowstone. *Buffalo Bull* is a more in-depth documentary on the Yellowstone buffalo slaughter. *Where the Buffalo Roam* profiles the field campaign and their efforts to protect the Yellowstone buffalo herd. To purchase the video send a check or money order for \$20 to Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers PO Box 7941 Missoula MT 59807. Elders and educators can receive a video at a discount please send a query to cmcr@wildrockies.org or call our office at 406-728-0867.

A Petition

The Buffalo Field Campaign has a petition that you can get by writing them, or going to the following website: <http://www.wildrockies.org/buffpet> The petition has over 20,000 signatures so far, and is periodically delivered to President Clinton, Chief Dombeck, and Marc Racicot, governor of Montana.

CLINTON HUGS NOT TREES... BUT THE GORE CAMPAIGN

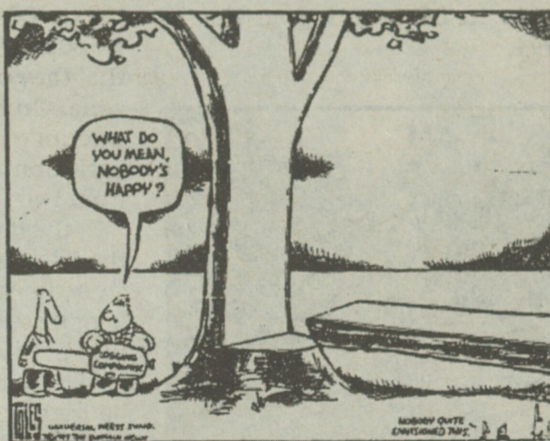
BY JEFFERY ST. CLAIR AND ALEXANDER COCKBURN-COUNTERPUNCH

It has been billed as the greatest act of land preservation since Teddy Roosevelt created the national forests. On October 13, President Clinton made his way, by helicopter and sports utility vehicle, to the George Washington Forest in the Shenandoah Mountains. There, he disclosed his plan to protect 40-million acres of roadless land in national forests across the country. Amid the ecstatic cheers of environmentalists, bused to the site by the National Audubon Society, Clinton declared that "in the end, we're going to protect all this," gesturing, as he spoke, to the surrounding trees. Those cheering environmentalists should have been warned by Clinton's means of transportation to the great event, that this statement will not hold true.

The first flaw in his plan is that it appears to prohibit road building, but not logging. These days, helicopters are becoming increasingly common as a way of extracting trees from the cut-over terrain to the nearest available road. Logging won't be banned it seems. Nor will livestock grazing, mining or dirt bikes. The plan falls short of protecting all roadless areas. Steve Kelly, a feisty, green organizer in Montana, had it right when he said, "The president tried to redefine sex, now he's trying to

redefine wilderness."

There are around 60 million acres of unexploited forest under federal supervision, and Clinton's plan applies to only 40 million of them. More than half the area covered by the Clinton plan is composed of rocks and ice, with



no trees. By contrast, the 20 million acres that have been excluded are mostly forested terrain. So it's scarcely surprising that Patti Rodgers, spokesperson for Oregon's Willamette National Forest, said the plan would have very little effect on logging in that forest, an assessment that was foreshadowed by Clinton when he said, "It's very important to point out that we are not trying to turn our national forests into museums." The Forest Service calculates that under the plan,

timber harvests will decline by only 28 million board feet. The annual take from national forests is four billion board feet.

Another huge defect in the plan is the apparent omission from its purview of the nation's largest and most ecologically intact national forest, the Tongass in Alaska, thus deferring to the political power of Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). This brings us to the plan's real intent, which has little to do with preservation and everything to do with the politics of the next 13 months.

What is afoot? The long process of review—probably 18 months—means that the executor of the plan will be the next president. What better way to congeal support for Al Gore, with leaders of the major green groups presaging a forest holocaust if George W. Bush wins the White House?

The announcement comes when Gore sorely needs to buttress his credibility with environmentalists. Friends of the Earth has endorsed Gore's rival for the Democratic nomination, Bill Bradley. Clinton took care to emphasize that the plan's architect was Gore, along with George Frampton, head of the government's Council on Environmental Quality. Frampton was once head of the Wilderness Society,

with Richard Hoppe as his right-hand man. These days Hoppe is one of the leaders of the Heritage Forest Campaign, which has most actively promoted the roadless area initiative. The Heritage Forest Campaign has no membership, only a substantial staff paid for by the Pew Charitable Trusts, which committed \$1.4 million to the roadless area campaign.

Thus we have Pew, the richest and most influential foundation in the environmental sector, creating Heritage Forest to advance a politically motivated initiative in an election year. Staffers of the Heritage Forest Campaign have been telling environmental organizers not to criticize the plan. "It is vital," ran an October 11 Heritage Forest e-mail, "that we respond immediately to early news reports of this effort with praise and consensus... If not, we jeopardize the whole deal."

The plan testifies to what the mainstream environmental movement has become: a wholly owned subsidiary of the Democratic National Committee. As Rep. Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR) said, "Forest policy is too serious to be the theme of the day in some attempt to boost Gore's flagging presidential campaign, which is what I think it's all about."

For more info contact CounterPunch, POB 228, Petrolia, CA 95558; (800) 840-3683; counterpunch@counterpunch.org.

A TREE IS SAVED IN OHIO

BY WOODY JOE HILL

Mike Wolfinger, a member of the United Steelworkers of America and an employee of Kaiser Aluminum in Newark, Ohio, received the phone call about his tree at 8 o'clock on a Sunday night in March. A neighbor came over and told him, "They're gonna cut your tree tomorrow."

"Say, what?" said Mike.

"They're gonna cut your tree tomorrow. The Franklin Township Trustees said your tree is blocking the road so they're gonna cut it down."

Now Mike was taking all this in as quick as he could. Particularly since all this new information was going to congeal in about 12 hours in the form of some county employees with chainsaws and a loader showing up on his private property early in the morning to take his tree. A tree that maybe 10 cars passed each day. A tree that barely caused a hiccup on an obscure dirt road. A tree that had thus far lived in anonymity.

It was a 400-year-old white oak that had been here before the Europeans showed up in Ohio. It was just inside the boundary of his farm, where he raised cows and corn. Being a steelworker and a farmer, Mike understood both the importance of environmental protection and the impact of environmental destruction. He breathed the toxic fumes at the Kaiser plant. He tilled the fertile soil at the place he called home. He loved the Earth dearly. And one of his favorite pieces of Earth happened to have that tree sitting on top of it. He would be damned if anything happened to it.

Well, to make a long story short, Mike was able to stave off the chainsaws for that morning through some tough talk-

ing on the phone. But that wasn't the end of the battle. No, it wasn't saying they had a 60-foot right of way onto his property. They had the right to cut his tree and they would see him in court.

The tree gained a following. Folks would pin notes of support on the tree. Calls of encouragement came on the phone. That little dirt road really did have some traffic for a change. By August, the Wolfinger's tree had become the most famous tree in Licking County, Ohio and possibly Perry County as well.

Still, the lawsuit raged on. For some reason the Licking County Prosecuting Attorney started pouring some heavy resources into it. And that's when Mike started thinking. Maybe there was more to this than just the tree. Maybe they're trying to seize a 60-foot rightaway from every piece of property on every public road in the state of Ohio. Mike Wolfinger was on the cutting edge of a giant land grab. All of a sudden the stakes got really high. And as if to affirm that, the next thing Mike got in the mail was a two inch legal brief with a dozen sworn affidavits, a pile of receipts for snow removal and a vague letter from the previous owner of the farm who died 25 years ago.

That's when Mike's steelworker buddy, Billy Harmon e-mailed Darryl Cherney of Earth First! in Humboldt County, California, and asked for help. "Can you get Julia Butterfly involved with this?" Billy wrote. Julia, of course, has been sitting 180 feet high in a redwood for almost two years. She has become an international spokesperson for the forest and a fan of the Kaiser steelworkers. Hundreds of others have been battling Charles Hurwitz and the Maxxam corporation. The Humboldt

County folks have been trying to stop Hurwitz's redwood slaughter, and the Kaiser steelworkers have been on strike and locked-out over working conditions and benefits.

By the time Darryl got to Newark, Ohio it was late September, but it wasn't too late. In fact, the timing seemed perfect as it was fast approaching the one-year anniversary of the Kaiser strike



Darryl and Dan the steelworker

and lock-out. A good time to generate some press. A good time to gather a little political pressure. A good time to bring the environment, the labor movement and property rights all together into one big, sappy issue.

Well to make another long story short Dan, Fred and Darryl were getting together. Actually they had already met at the founding meeting of the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Oakland the previous month.

Meanwhile, back in Ohio, after a couple of days of hanging on the picket line and at the union hall of USWA Local 341, it was time to meet the Wolfingers and their tree.

Well, the three rallies and the annual steelworker district gathering all went great. Mike Wolfinger, Dan Daubermire, Local 341 President Gary Sites and Darryl Cherney all spoke on behalf of unity

between steelworkers and environmentalists, and urged people to sign the letter. And they did. By the hundreds. From all over the state. Mike and Darryl raised their hands high together in solidarity at the final rally at the Kaiser gate. And more people signed letters to help protect the trees.

With all the steelworker gatherings, plus lots of people coming out of the woodwork to gather signatures, the prosecuting attorney was looking at nearly 700 letters before the week was over. This surely was the most famous tree in Licking County.

By the time October was halfway through and after the letters had time to sink in, the trial of the Wolfinger's tree had another hearing. This one was based on the two-inch brief submitted by the Franklin Township Trustees and a lot would be determined by the judge's rulings on the motions before him. The fate of every roadside tree in Ohio was at stake. Whoever lost could appeal to the higher court, but they would find themselves in a defensive position. The Wolfingers were hopeful, but not entirely sure; a high stakes land grab was in the offering.

"Case dismissed!" ruled the judge, slamming his gavel down. The township's own documents had proven themselves wrong, the judge summarized. They never possessed a right of way nor an easement. The Wolfinger's 400-year-old white oak would remain standing. And the prosecuting attorney would not appeal. Mike Wolfinger could go back to fighting tree-killer Charles Hurwitz of Maxxam. The Franklin Township political sheep had stopped banging at the Wolfinger's door.

Moral: Yes, folks, it's deep water for the forces of greed when labor and environment get together to stand up for our rights. But our rights are only ours when we take them as our own.

Activists occupy trees in BC's Elaho Valley

RESISTANCE CONTINUES DESPITE ATTACK BY INTERFOR LOGGERS

BY JONAH

Early November 2, two Friends of Elaho climbed into an ancient Douglas fir tree in the Elaho Valley, a large area of old-growth trees northwest of Vancouver, British Columbia. The Elaho Valley is home to hundreds of 1300-year-old fir trees and is the southernmost coastal habitat of grizzly bears in North America. International Forest Products (Interfor) has been logging in the area, rapidly clearcutting some of the last remnants of temperate rainforest on BC's lower mainland. The two sitters, a woman known as Maya and a man known as Frente, remained in the tree for five days, through heavy snowfall and rain.

Interfor attempted to avoid the negative media attention that this sit would bring because of the attention received earlier this fall. On the morning of September 15, 62 Interfor and Elaho logging trucks drove through our eight-person protest camp (organized by members of People's Action for Threatened Habitat). Various Interfor managers, engineers and foremen were seen in the vehicles alongside other employees who had been previously suspended for violent attacks on protesters. At 11:30 a.m., one of the Interfor foremen, Derek Sayle, told James Jamieson, trail boss at nearby Western Canada Wilderness Committee Millennial Tree Camp, that he had 50 angry men behind him and 50 on their way and he "didn't know how much longer he could control his men."

A half hour later, 60 loggers walked down the logging road toward our camp while another 40 fanned through the woods slashing tents and packs. The Interfor employees started to rip apart our camp and yell threats. Then about 10 of the men turned their attention on Shredder, who was holding onto the last video camera. She later recounted, "I was at the bottom of a huge pile of men with the camera beneath my breast, between my arms, with my friend wrapped around my back and another friend wrapped around his back, and then a whole bunch of men came and piled on top of them and I was literally getting crushed." The loggers then attempted to rip the video strap through her neck, finally pulling it away and smashing the camera.

The loggers then continued to destroy the camp. They pushed us around, while yelling death and rape threats. Then the loggers began attacking James Jamieson, ripping apart the fingers on his hand to pull him from his van and then pushing him down into a ditch on the side of the road.

"He (one of the loggers who had been suspended for an August 11 attack on the camp) picked up a 10-to-15-pound rock, held it over my head and said he was going to bash my head in," James later recounted. Then the Interfor workers gave us 10 minutes to get out before "they came back again, and it would be worse."

We quickly threw whatever we could into our vehicles, while the loggers threw whatever they could into a fire. We jumped into our vehicles and started down the 60-mile logging road. We met the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on the road 15 minutes after the attack and five hours after we had initially called them. They told us to continue to town and make our statements at the station, while they went and investigated the scene. As soon as the officers left us, logging trucks began whipping past our vehicles attempting to force us off the road and into the canyon. One truck pulled in front of James' van and began throwing rocks at it. Not only did the RCMP arrive five hours late, they let the loggers drive off, neither questioning nor detaining them. This action mirrors past events in the Elaho; in 1997 when loggers trashed a blockade

and assaulted the protesters, the RCMP showed up 15 minutes after the violence had occurred and let the loggers go. This is the fourth violent attack by vigilante logger mobs in BC against non-violent protesters since 1994.



Friends of the Elaho watch and pray for peace as Interfor loggers (visible in the distance) advance toward their camp on September 15.

While all of this violence occurred in the camp, treesitter Guillermo was being assaulted by another 50 loggers. The loggers started early in the morning, throwing rocks at Guillermo, hitting him in the head and body. An Interfor employee, Rob, pulled out his chainsaw and cut half way through Guillermo's tree before several other loggers held him back. He then felled the two trees adjacent to Guillermo's tree, the second landing directly on the hood of an Interfor truck. Finally, the logger climbed up to where Guillermo's gear was hanging and cut it down. He thankfully didn't continue climbing but rather joined the circle of men burning the



About 60 loggers destroyed the camp while yelling death and rape threats. RCMP let the loggers drive off without questioning or detaining them.

sitter's gear. Later an Interfor helicopter buzzed his half cut tree, nearly knocking it over.

The response to the violence in the Elaho has been overwhelming; groups such as Greenpeace, the BC Civil Liberties Association, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and members of Parliament have called for a complete investigation of Interfor's actions on that day and on the lack of action by the RCMP. A civil suit was filed on October 26 by three of the assault victims placing blame on both the individual workers involved in the attack and Interfor and Elaho Logging management and executives for encouraging and perhaps planning this violence. There is plenty of evidence that shows Interfor had direct knowledge of the events as they unfolded. Company vehicles were used that day, top management was in the area, company radios were used to plan the attack and ride sharing to the area, and Interfor lawyers used the attack in court that day as it was happening to argue for an extension to their exclusion zone in the area.

This summer, Interfor's roadbuilding was shut

down for 23 days through various treesits and blockades. This prompted Interfor to use the legal system to attempt to silence protest in the valley by obtaining a 500-meter exclusion zone around its active worksite. The RCMP then began arresting anyone that they could find evidence of having entered the zone. On September 17, two days after the attack, Interfor was awarded a further 400,000-square meter exclusion zone, which prohibits the general public from even walking through this area.

In the middle of October, our new affinity group, the Friends of the Elaho, planned another treesit to shut down Interfor's operations at the end of its logging season. On October 25, in the middle of the night, we arrived in the area and began setting up a backcountry base camp. The level of security had to be high because we didn't want to see a reoccurrence of the violence that happened in September. The weather for the first week was relentless. Everyday brought more snow and rain, making everything from scouting to cooking very difficult. But the seven of us persevered because we had to. When you walk through the groves of ancient Douglas firs, cross the glacial streams and breathe in the spirit of the land, you cannot just sit around and do nothing. We had to act.

On Halloween Sunday, we were blessed with a sunny day. We began by moving our huge platforms, food, cold weather gear, communications and other equipment several kilometers to the end of the road. By Monday night we had everything in place, and as darkness descended our climbers ascended an ancient Doug fir. By Tuesday, the sit was in place and Maya and Frente set up their tree camp.

The first day, Interfor moved its operations down to a spur road 200 meters away and began blasting. Interfor management was in the area discussing the sit on their radios but publicly tried to ignore it. Dave Miller, the tree farm license manager said, "If

they want to hang up there in the cold and freeze their *derriere* off, more power to them." Two months earlier, the same Dave Miller had been present as his employees beat the last treesitter in the Elaho Valley. Despite this, the sitters remained strong in their stand for the land.

By nightfall on Wednesday, two feet of snow had fallen on the ground, leaving our basecamp completely snowed in. On Thursday, the four of us hiked out with whatever we could carry on our backs, to the closest point a vehicle could drive. The sitters decided to stay, they were warm, dry, in high spirits and strong in their resolve to stop Interfor's destruction of the area. On Saturday, Mother Nature gave the sitters another dumping of snow, and so for their safety it

was decided that we should pull them out. Interfor was also prevented from working that day; the snow had become too much for them as well.

The campaign to protect BC's remaining old growth continues through the winter months. City actions are planned in Vancouver, Squamish and Whistler. Next spring, the Friends of the Elaho plan to start early in their campaign to preserve the Elaho Valley. Friends of the Elaho say, "This year we were there for the first snow fall, next year we'll be there when the snow melts."

To get more information about the Elaho Valley contact the Friends of the Elaho at (604) 729-8933 or People Actions for Threatened Habitat's at PATH@envirolink.org. There is a new controversial documentary about September 15 by independent videographer, Daniel Gautreau, called *Hoods in the Woods: the Battle for the Stoltmann*. For copies of the video send \$20 US (\$25 CAN) (includes international shipping) to Maluba Productions, #811, 402 W. Pender St., Vancouver, BC, V6B 1T6, Canada; maluba@telus.net.

Editor's note: On December 11, the Four Oaks Spiritual Encampment was destroyed. Over 100 police raided the encampment and arrested 33 people, but without blatant brutality of police towards protestors. The four oaks in the four directions have been cut, as have nearly all of the other trees nearby. Three people remain in the still standing trees and have yet to be removed.

BY SQUASH AND NETTLE

Trees continue to fall in the first ever state park in Minneapolis to make way for a new stretch of highway, all to shave two to three minutes off a car trip from downtown to the Mall of the Americas and the airport. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) private contractors have moved closer to the Minnehaha Free State or spiritual encampment where a diverse group of activists defends an ancient ceremonial ground and burial ground as well as the last clean spring in the city. There is still much to protect even though there has been lots of recent destruction in the park.

On September 27, seven treesitters and numerous others on the highway below were victims of a brutal and nearly fatal attack by Minnesota state troopers, and the Minneapolis police and fire departments. At 3:00 a.m., directly below the branches of the two month long Cottonwood treesit, a tripod was erected on major commuter Highway 55 and occupied by two tree sitters. At 10:00 a.m., police diverted traffic and shut down Highway 55 for nearly 14 hours. Five people then joined the two long-term treesitters in the ancient tree revered by the Dakota Tribes as "the tree of life." In mid-afternoon, police and troopers forced supporters and onlookers away from the sit and tripod, setting up a 30 officer police line. Fire and rescue teams then proceeded to carelessly dismantle the tripod, nearly dropping Blake, who was perched on a suspended platform from the apex and also u-locked by the neck to one tripod leg. Liz, who was on the ground u-locked to a separate leg, was also put in serious danger when the tripod began to slide. After the tripod removal, the focus turned to the cottonwood treesit.

Suspended in a one-person web from a traverse walkway directly over Minnehaha Creek, Midnight was forced out onto the line as a fire team accompanied by police attempted to reach and retrieve him. A previous sitter, Squash, crossed the police line and scampered up the anchoring tree across the creek and onto a traverse. Without safety lines and wobbling tediously due to the reckless hacking of the abandoned web by police, both nearly fell 35 feet onto a concrete retaining wall as onlookers screamed in horror. The police came inches from the polypro line that comprised the lower part of the walkway, preparing to cut it with razor sharp utility knives, stopping only when the protesters screamed "... if you cut that line, we die!"

When the fire ladder retreated, both crossed the traverse safely to the cottonwood to join the five others, only to see a cherrypicker carrying a man



Squash and Scabius occupy a majestic cottonwood. Both the activists and tree would later suffer from police action.

with a chainsaw and a closet dowl-wielding state trooper. The pair began to randomly lop one-and-a-half foot thick branches off the tree, less than a foot away from the feet of protesters.

Then suddenly, Wes—without a harness or even a rope to hold—leapt from 40 feet up, over the highway and onto the straight neck of the cherrypicker. The operator started to raise the arm, in an attempt to shake Wes off. The operator then lowered the arm to the ground, where Wes was apprehended by police.

Moments later, as the fire ladder went out to cut the empty traverse, Roary rappelled onto it and u-locked the rungs in place. He was then unable to reattach to his climblime. Police on the ground then wrapped the tail of the line around his leg and jerked until he fell 15 feet to the highway, sustaining a sprained neck and a concussion. The cherrypicker returned a few minutes later, cutting more branches leaving Midnight dangling from the top line by a piece of webbing. Police then cut the 40x20 lower web in half, dropping most of the supplies to the creek. Freedom leapt onto the machine, but the first ladder was there in seconds, pulling her off. Then, in what most present have said was attempted murder, the branch of the cottonwood that the traverse was anchored to was cut with Midnight still attached. By sheer luck the static line snagged on a lower branch without breaking and he quickly climbed to the top of the 85-foot tree to join the other three remaining people.

Finally, the cherrypicker retreated for the night, leaving four treesitters, Toxic, Midnight, Squash, and Nettle, in the two-person top web with only six blankets as the temperature dropped to 42 degrees with a wind of 15 mph. The State Troopers moved the police line back around the tree, beginning a 10 day siege, attempting to starve out the protesters. At least six state troopers patrolled at all times preventing food, water or supplies from reaching the activists.

On the following morning, the sitters salvaged the remnants of the

traverse and lower web, and set a new web next to the top one. After four days, Dr. Toxic and Midnight volunteered to go down in order to provide more warmth and food for the other two. Two days later, Squash came down for the same reason. All three were arrested upon touching the ground. Nettle held out four days longer, as weather conditions dropped to record-breaking lows.

It all came to a head on day ten when Tree Frog, jumped out of a car and scaled the telephone pole across the street from the tree sit. Wearing a backpack containing supplies, he attempted to shoot a lead weight attached to fishing line using a slingshot across the road to enable Nettle to pull a climblime across and anchor it. The highway was shut down as nearly 70 police cars arrived with a fire ladder. As he was brutally jerked from the telephone pole, and stuffed by two cops face down into the bucket, close to 300 supporters gath-

ered behind the lines singing, chanting and shouting support. Minutes later, the fire ladder went for Nettle, who climbed to the top branches before being removed.

This is but a small portion of the terror that protesters and supporters of the Minnehaha Free State and the Stop 55 coalition have faced from the police, and MnDOT. The state troopers and police readily admitted that MnDOT was paying them \$60 an hour of taxpayer's money. Tax payers who have openly voiced opposition to the \$8.4 million dollar reroute of Highway 55. The reroute has already claimed over 300 trees in a ten-block area of Minnehaha Park, the first state park in the US.

Recently, trees have been cut within a block of the Free State. There are still two ongoing treesits in the park, only 150 feet from where the proud cottonwood once stood, and others in the woods surrounding the camp. With winter closing in, temperatures are below freezing, and federal helicopters equipped with infrared scanning spotlight the camp frequently. Recently, Tim u-locked his neck to a tree-cutting device called a Hydro-axe and was dangerously driven to the MnDOT office at 30 mph, still attached.

With increasing community support and the building of the Stop 55 coalition, we have most recently formed a bond and alliance with the Northside Neighborhood Coalition, a primarily African-American group being subjected to gentrification and eviction from their low-income housing.

The Free State needs your help! Blankets, winter gear, snow shoes, two-way radios and a huge list of other supplies are greatly needed for the nearly two-year-old camp to survive another winter. Any kind of support is appreciated, tangible or spiritual.

And remember... Stop 55! Go oaks!

For more information, contact Free State Supportive Collective at c/o 3208 W. Laite #83, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

To voice your opposition, contact Jesse "The Governor" Ventura at (612) 296-3391; MnDOT Commissioner Elwin Tinklenberg at (612) 297-1467.

Frontlines

UK action in solidarity with free Papua movement

As part of the national day of action on October 4, in solidarity with the Free Papua Movement (OPM), activists from across southwestern England occupied both Bristol offices of Rio Tinto, the largest mining company in the world. In West Papua, along with the brutal Indonesian military Rio Tin-to has inflicted massive environmental devastation and human suffering.

Just before 9 a.m., 12 suited activists walked past security (busy dealing with diversionary "drunks") and occupied the Mining and Exploration offices on the seventh floor. Police arrived quickly, trashing a door and office equipment while clearing activists out. After an hour, people left with no arrests to join the picket outside. Later, the well-dressed rabble visited other offices. Two women locked to a filing cabinet. In another office files were shuffled and next door a man barricaded himself in and got down to some useful office work. Outside, leaflets were given out and the building transformed by banners.

The same day, oil giant ARCO (involved in the exploration and development of Benoui Bay off West Papua), offices in Guilford were invaded by a dozen suited Brighton people who went almost totally unnoticed by staff for half an hour. During this time they walked around the finance department, reading and reorganizing files, losing keys to locked filing cabinets, having creative fun with computers and distributing hundreds of flyers into files, handbags and outgoing mail.

Nude at Old Navy

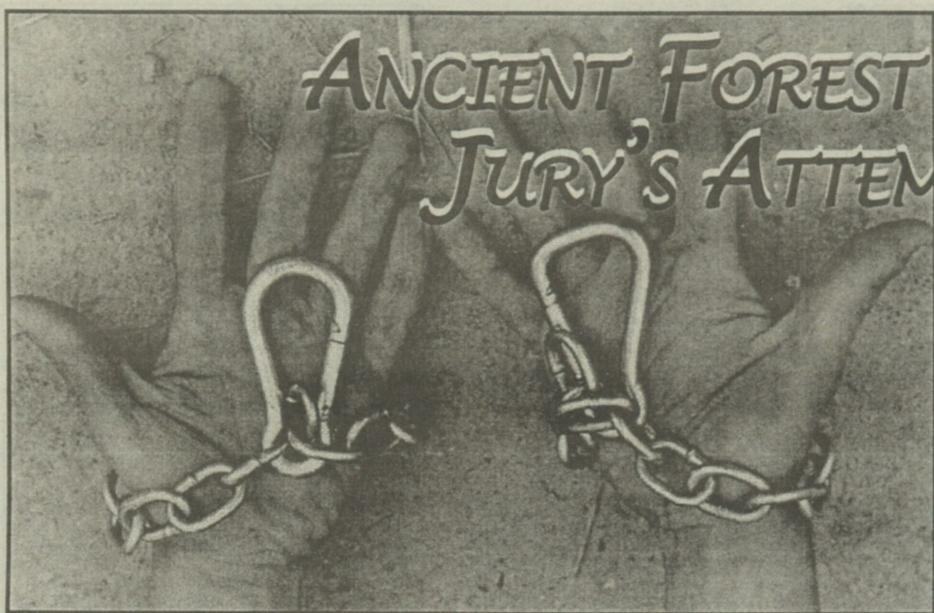
Over 75 activist staged a grand opening protest of Old Navy's newest San Francisco store on October 20. Redwoods Boycott The Gap Campaign led in chants and leafletting after a sweatshop fashion show spearheaded by Global Exchange. Activists protested the poverty wages and sweatshop conditions endured by those making Old Navy and GAP clothes.

Later, a troop of activists performed a parody of the Gap dancing cubes TV ad. Sporting caps and t-shirts mimicking the Gap Logo, the dancing cubes sang and chanted with their letters spelling out "save the redwoods" and "boycott the Gap." Their grand finale saw the cubes taken off and demonstrators strip down naked chanting, "we'd rather go naked than wear sweatshop clothes," some giving rousing speeches, sans clothes, in front of TV and press while police stood by without attempting arrests. The activists tried to enter the Old Navy Store but were banned by a line of San Francisco Police.

Naked truth about nukes

About 50 people gathered October 3 near San Francisco's City Hall for a conference on the potential dangers of Y2K-induced nuclear catastrophes ending the session with a mass nude demonstration along Van Ness Avenue. Desperate for press attention for their cause, they opted to get covered by uncovering. "Non violent people like us really have so few tools to face a capitalist system," one protester told the crowd as they uncomfortably disrobed outside Herbst Theater in the War Memorial Building.

The crowd whooped and hollered their way out of the building and onto the street for a quick stroll, chanting, "disrobe for disarmament" and, "nudes, not nukes."



ANCIENT FOREST RESCUE THWARTS GRAND JURY'S ATTEMPT TO SHACKLE ACTIVISTS

Photo by Andy Chittick/Gypsy Free State

BY HEATH HANSENS

FBI and Grand Jury harassment of Ancient Forest Rescue (AFR) immediately followed the October 18, 1998 Vail arson. With activists in the area at the time of the fires, AFR was a prime target for the feds. The FBI phoned the family of an AFR activist the day after the fires to inquire about his whereabouts. Consistent harassment of students in Colorado followed as the FBI interviewed neighbors, roommates and professors.

Grand Jury subpoenas started last winter in an attempt to gather information. Several young activists were coerced into talking under the threat of civil contempt charges and possible incarceration. Harassment continued through the spring and into the summer with the FBI calling and knocking on people's doors. AFR vehemently announced that this investigation was politically motivated and was an attempt to disrupt the activities of radical activists in Colorado.

Fueled by the intense media attention that the arson garnered, the Grand Jury issued several new subpoenas in September. AFR activists were dragged in front of the Grand Jury in an attempt to coerce names of others from them. The federal prosecutor ran into a stone wall by the name of Kirsten Atkins, who would not cooperate with the proceedings. With one kick-ass lawyer, David Lane, Atkins refused to give any names. This brave example set the tone for other activists who accounted for their own whereabouts in Vail but did not give names or accounts of others.

Standing strong and unified on our right to freedom of association protected by the First Amendment, several other AFR organizers went before the Grand Jury and refused to testify about other activists. With legal support from the Colorado Criminal Lawyers Association, AFR made a strong stand for the First.

With four people facing contempt hearings the week of November 15, AFR activists were preparing for jail support.

Five other activists were subpoenaed for that same week. They were prepared to stand up against the Grand Jury's McCarthy-like tactics and refuse to cooperate. The new subpoenas were issued without immunity hearings and the activists used their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination to refuse to answer questions.

Strong resistance to the questioning that the federal prosecutors were pursuing, coupled with intense media organizing on the part of AFR activists, caused the feds to back down. On November 17 Assistant Federal Prosecutor Kenneth Buck told the four uncooperative activists that he did not intend to file contempt charges against them. He announced this after the morning's hearings. His reasoning was that he did not feel that we had any relevant information to the case. Well, it's about damn time; it took him six months and 12 subpoenas to figure out what he could have read in the newspaper.

Maybe it was the 100 people gathered outside of the Federal Building that helped Mr. Buck decide. With wide support from the environmental and animal rights movements, AFR and the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center organized a rally to support the activists at risk of incarceration. This visible demonstration of support along with write-in and phone-in campaigns applied significant pressure to the federal prosecutors office. AFR has maintained a steady presence with the press presenting the Grand Jury as a political witch hunt.

Fear of victory in the contempt hearing may have also contributed to the prosecutor's decision not to file charges. If our lawyers had argued that AFR's membership list and the list of people at a meeting were protected by our First Amendment Rights (Freedom of Association and Assembly) the decision would have been monumental. Without the ability to question you about your friends and associates, the power of the Grand Jury would be greatly limited. This Grand Jury made a serious attempt to map the radical environmental movement all over the country. With a ruling based on the First Amendment that would no longer be possible. By refusing to file charges against us the prosecutors office is not taking any chances at weakening the Grand Jury's future ability to gather information about radical movements.

Several of the questions asked by the Grand Jury were about people from other parts of the country. Of particular interest were activists from Vermont and Oregon. The prosecutors are also attempting to link the Vail fire with other recent ALF and ELF targets in Wyoming, Denver and Medford, Oregon. We feel questions about other areas and people was an attempt to probe the connections in the environmental community around the country.

The fight is not over! Four more witnesses appeared before the Grand Jury on November 19. One student activist has been told that she has material evidence. She will be returning to testify again on December 6. The movement needs to turn up the heat on the Grand Jury. Continuing to force activists to appear is costing us valuable time and money over bullshit!

The Grand Jury has hinted that they have suspects connected to the enviro/animal liberation movements. We still need help! With indictments coming out we need to prepare for some serious support. The people that they were asking about did not burn down Vail. Funds and organizers will be needed at short notice. If you want anymore information, contact Crested Butte AFR at (970)349-1005; kirstenis@yahoo.com.

We would like to give special thanks to Carlotta Exotica and Peg Millet for coming through with direct support for the rally. Also to all of the bad-ass lawyers that represented everybody *pro bono*!

HUNGERSTRIKE STOPS FOOD NOT BOMBS ARRESTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

BY FOOD NOT BOMBS

Sister Bernie Galvin and two other members and supporters of Religious Witness with Homeless People participated in a hunger strike for justice and compassion in the United Nations Plaza in San Francisco for 12 days from November 8-19.

At the beginning of the hunger strike on November 8, Sister Bernie issued the following statement:

Over the past three years Food Not Bombs (FNB) has served hot, nutritious vegetarian soup and bread to a large gathering of homeless people in United Nations Plaza, and I have witnessed the gracious, respectful and peaceful manner in which they have done so. Three weeks ago, in betrayal of his 1995 campaign promise to FNB to allow that serving, Mayor Willie Brown ordered his police force to begin arresting anyone serving food to homeless people in UN Plaza. Since that order, 13 members or volunteers of FNB, including myself, have been arrested and jailed. In all my life I have never seen anything so meanspirited as SF police officers moving in and taking several five-gallon buckets of hot soup and dozens of loaves of bread away from the hungry, homeless people lined up for that evening meal. How utterly heartless of Mayor Brown to order his police force to confiscate food compassionately prepared for poor people right in front of their very eyes and to haul it off and dump it!

Members of the SF police force have committed themselves to serve and protect the community from real crime and danger; how unfair of Mayor Brown to put his police officers in, what is undoubt-



Sister Bernie is arrested by San Francisco cops.

edly for most of them, such a painful moral dilemma. On November 1, I was arrested for serving food in UN Plaza and held in jail for 24 hours. I will return to UN Plaza and serve food as many times as is necessary, risking arrest, in protest to Mayor Brown's cruel orders to his police force to arrest those of us trying to alleviate the suffering of poor people. Furthermore, on Monday, November 8, I will begin a personal hunger strike which will last until Mayor Brown revokes his order to his police force to deny homeless people access to the soup and bread prepared for them by Food Not Bombs or

by anyone else. During this fast I will consume juice only, in order to maintain enough strength to continue my ministry with homeless people. I have invited other religious leaders and community members to join in this public fast to the extent to which their circumstances permit. We will be on the steps of City Hall in a silent prayer vigil Monday through Friday, 12 noon to 1 p.m., for as many days as Mayor Brown's orders for the arrests remain.

The hunger strike ended when the city halted the arrests of FNB volunteers, pending the outcome of negotiations between FNB and the city to allow the serving of food in UN Plaza to continue. "Religious Witness was instrumental in bringing about these negotiations. We sincerely hope and pray that the two parties are successful in their effort so that the needs of hungry, poor people can be met," said Sarah Gooze, staff person of Religious Witness.

Father Louis Vitale, who, along with Sister Bernie and Herman Gallegos, fasted the entire 12 days on juice and water only, commented: "Franciscans have had a long heritage—over 100 years of feeding people in this neighborhood. We were appalled that food was taken from the poor and people arrested for serving the poor. We have fasted and risked arrest, and now we are very pleased that a new compassion allows the feeding to continue."

For more information contact San Francisco Food Not Bombs; POB 40485; San Francisco, California 94140; (415) 675-9928; sffnb@iww.org; www.foodnotbombs.org.

Photo by Cary Kanakas

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS—A HUMAN-CENTRIC CONCEPT

BY DAVID ORTON

The proposal to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), made by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) under the 1996 Oceans Act, needs to apply deep ecology to an actual environmental issue. The literature that I have seen on MPAs seems to appeal to human economic self-interest, such as how fishers can benefit. Yet fishers seem to feel that they have some proprietary lock on the oceans from which the public is excluded. It seems a stupid strategy to try and mollify fishers while trying to establish MPAs. In order to create fully protected, extensive ocean sanctuaries that are not undercut by fishing or fossil fuel interests, there must be a new social base, including more than just fisher people. Conservation must raise an all-species perspective and oppose anthropocentrism. The primary issue in any MPA discussion should be philosophical, trying to change how humans look at the oceans and their life forms.

Choices in life are driven by philosophy, although few of us think about how our actions and philosophies are related. Those who support deep ecology believe that there has to be a fundamental change in consciousness of how humans relate to the natural world. This requires a change from an anthropocentric to an ecocentric perspective—seeing humans as a species with no superior status. All other species have a right to exist, irrespective of their usefulness to the human species. Humans cannot presume dominance over all non-human species of life and see nature as a resource for our utilization. We have to extend the ethical circle outwards, toward the oceans and the Earth. All life is one.

The true conservationist, or Earth-citizen, must be prepared to oppose his/her own self-interest for the benefit of other creatures and their habitats. The justification for MPAs should not be one of self-interest. Protection of marine areas should not be based on which (human) stakeholders shout the loudest in opposition. A fundamental question about MPAs is whether to appeal to economic interests or to rise above this, by promoting overall ecological and social interests.

A Marine Protected Area must mean full ecological protection from human exploitive interests, otherwise the term itself becomes debased. Degrees of restriction of the human use of an oceans area could be encompassed using another term such as Marine Regulated Area rather than using, and debasing, the term "protected area."

According to the Oceans Act, MPAs rest on an assertion of ownership over the internal waters, the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone. In a press release dated December 19, 1996, the federal fishing minister said the passage of the Oceans Act "reaffirms Canada's sovereign ocean rights..." Supporters of deep ecology believe no one can own the Earth, whether from a state, individual or collective

point of view. Asserted ownership is ultimately a convenient social fiction deriving from a human society bent on enforcing a claim of control over other creatures and the Earth itself.

The Oceans Act is not based on deep ecology. According to this act the Canada's Ocean Management Strategy (of which MPAs are a part) is to be based on support for the principles of sustainable development. This concept, which sanctifies continuous economic growth and consumerism, should not be accepted. We need to drastically scale back economic growth and consumerism not expand it. Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees, in their 1996 book *Our Ecological Footprint*, though presenting quite a

human-centered perspective, point out that to live sustainably, we must ensure "that we use the essential products and processes of nature no more quickly than they can be renewed and that we discharge wastes no more quickly than they can be absorbed." Moreover, they point out that if everyone on Earth had the average Canadian or American lifestyle, then three planets would be needed for a sustainable lifestyle for the world's population.

The Oceans Act uses the word "resource" to cover non-human creatures living in the oceans. The automatic assumption that nature is a resource for corporate and human use is an indication of our total alienation from the natural world. It implies a human-centered, utilitarian world view and that humans are somehow the pinnacle of evolution.

The word "stakeholder" means anyone interested in MPAs, lumping together those who want to exploit the oceans with people who have ecological and social interests. It makes no distinction between, say, in-shore fishers who have a long term personal commitment to living off of the oceans and oil and gas companies who pack up and move whenever richer fields are found. The concept seems to imply that out of the various competing interests, a lowest common denominator, general good will emerge. Ultimately, we are all stakeholders in a planetary well-being sense, yet non-human stakeholders are not considered. In terms of MPAs, who has more at stake than the seals, the fish and the algae?

The Oceans Act says that its legislation upholds existing treaty rights of aboriginal peoples as outlined in the Constitution Act of 1982, under section 35. Translated, this means that a MPA can be subject to exploitation by aboriginal peoples. This puts ecology subordinate to human society.

The DFO seems to have replaced Parks Canada as the leading federal agency in marine protection, yet it has been intimately concerned with promoting corporate exploitive interests in fisheries policies. Put another way, the DFO does not question the assumption that marine ecology should serve the industrial capitalist economy. For Parks Canada, maintenance of ecological integrity was considered the first priority in park zoning and visitor use.

The nature of our capitalist society influences

how we think about MPAs. I support protecting marine areas, but free of human exploitation. MPAs need to become a reflection of ecocentric thinking. The question is: Will MPAs be the beginning of a new ecological way of preservation or a subterfuge for the continued industrial exploitation of the oceans using greenwashing?

A step in choosing marine areas to protect is to assess all the stakeholders. Humans are one group—those with a direct economic interest being only a subgroup. After all, the term protected area implies protection from humans. The other stakeholders, who usually remain voiceless at meetings, are the marine animals, plants and other organisms. Their interests have to be given more weight than human concerns.

MPAs cannot be just minor set-asides. We cannot have dead zones between them. MPAs are not about creating wildlife reservations, because the nature of our society influences life inside these areas. Wider phenomena, like global warming, do not stop at MPA boundaries. Therefore a new, global, marine vision is necessary. Why don't we set aside oceans giving them protected status and then have workshops and meetings about which small areas should be opened up for human exploitation, of course, sustainably?

David Orton is coordinator of the Green Web environmental research group. He lives on an old hill farm in Nova Scotia, Canada and engages in developing the left biocentric tendency in deep ecology. Contact the Green Web, R. R. # 3 Saltsprings, NS B0K 1P0, Canada; greenweb@fox.nstn.ca; www.fox.nstn.ca/greenweb.



Protection Areas To Be

Fearing that conventional fishing restrictions cannot reverse a steep decline in marine stocks, conservationists and fishery managers are increasingly advocating that large expanses of the sea be put entirely off limits to fishing.

The US National Marine Fisheries Service is studying a plan that would ban fishing in two 100-square-mile blocks of the Gulf of Mexico off Florida to protect spawning grounds of the gag grouper. Another emerging proposal that would create extensive reserves around the Dry Tortugas, a small group of islands near Key West, Florida in habitat populated by a variety of reef fish. Parts of the Georges Bank and selected scallop grounds off New England are already closed to fishing. Tight restrictions are in place for the Oculina Bank off Fort Pierce, Florida, and now, consideration is being given to putting large stretches of the California coast off limits, and a Caribbean reserve is on the drawing board near St. Thomas.

No plan has emerged to establish a reserve off the North Carolina coast although there is a proposal to limit commercial fishing of certain migratory fish. Advocates compare establishing huge no-fishing zones to the practice of creating game preserves to protect wildlife populations.

TRANS-ISRAEL HIGHWAY

continued from front page

They were released on their own recognition an hour later. On November 16 two more activists were arrested for chaining themselves to bulldozers. They were brought before a judge and released after promising to not perform civil disobedience at the construction site. All of those arrested reported being threatened with physical harm by the officials of CEDerech Eretz, the company responsible for building the road, and other independent contractors.

Opposition to the road goes on

Environmental organizations have been moving into high gear, attempting a last-ditch effort to stop the road. The activist groups, building on the experience of groups like Road Alert (UK) and Earth First!, under-

stand that radical resistance is the only effective mechanism for mobilizing a different transportation policy. It seems that the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) and other groups are in agreement; they have tried very hard to help.

The SPNI blanketed the country with posters that denounced the highway and called on the public to register its opposition. Green Course has started to demonstrate outside the Knesset, the Israeli Senate, each day. The youth movements of the SPNI organized a demonstration against the road at the construction site. Members of Knesset (MKs) have promised to show up at the protest camp to support the green campaigners. Environment Minister Dalia Itzik, along with six other ministers and 57 MKs, have signed a petition

calling on the government to study the feasibility of the road using non-governmental independent experts.

A number of groups and individuals visit the protest tent daily. These have included a Peace Now youth group, a commune from HaShomer HaTzair, and most exciting, all the kibbutz kids aged six-11 from Nachshonim, the town most affected by the highway. Eran Shadar (Subaru) pretended to be a representative of the highway people and tried to convince the kiddies to support the road. They were unimpressed. One said, "The road will threaten my dog." Another said, "Where will we go to be outside?" Others talked about the awful noise and smell of the cars. They promised to talk to their families about the road.

We need your help

Experience from other countries leads us to believe that the road can be stopped,

even at this late stage. A majority of the public is against it, as are nearly all of Israel's transportation and planning experts. The road is also threatening Israel's Palestinian Arab villages that lie in its path. What is necessary is public support. Here's what you can do to help:

Come to the protest encampment for an hour, day or week. Bring food. Register to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience on a specific day as soon as possible. Do what you can to get other organizations, political parties and public figures to join the struggle.

To help send money to Green Action, POB 4611, Tel-Aviv, Israel; (972) 3-516-2349; greenman@shani.net; www.greenaction.org.il. Now is the time to save the land of Israel and her people from the devastation planned by the contractors and real estate developers of the CEDerech Eretz consortium. Help us in our time of need!

SHIT FOR BRAINS

continued from page 3

Dear SFB,

Hi. There is no Earth First! where I live, although Manitoba has a group. I think there is a major uphill battle for environmentalism in Canada since so much of the economy is based on natural resources—mining, logging, fishing etc... so much of the obvious is ignored until it is too late—collapsed east coast cod fishery, now the west coast salmon fishery... So people come up with something else to plunder. It creates jobs! It makes money so everyone cheers! With more money to shop at Walmart and buy new trucks! Here in Saskatchewan where the only industry seems to be farming is in a mess. The only farmers doing well are organic chemical free farmers! Hmmm, what a concept—but do the majority follow suit? No, they sign contracts with Monsanto!

Anyway, right now an issue is in the hands with the federal government—the sale of water—not just bottled water but bulk water! Some business guy in Newfoundland found a pristine lake and wants to take the water out and sell it! So the government must decide if this is legal, if they should allow it etc... The free trade agreement did not protect water, and if the MAI ever goes through look out—foreign investors could pop up all over Canada buying lakes and draining them for export and profits believing they aren't doing any harm... Poor countries that really do need water will not be able to afford it. It makes me furious. I wish I could do something...

Another thing, Canada accepts old plutonium from the United States and Russia's nuclear weapons that are being dismantled. Grrrr, go to any Canadian city and you will find some dinky sign "this is a nuclear free zone" meanwhile uranium and plutonium is being carted all over the place in trucks, trains, ships... if there is ever an accident... It annoys me that Canada is so weak.

Weyerhaeuser took over MacMillan Bloedel in Canada this June. Aaaaaaaah! MacBlo had "promised" it would stop clearcutting (but proceeded to hack away a huge amount of old-growth rainforest in BC) and signed an agreement with the Sierra Club, Greenpeace and local tribes to set up a sustainable logging program in Clayquot Sound! Sounded nice, but now Weyerhaeuser has it's hands on it! rant rant—I do admire Earth First! greatly and wish I could be more involved, but for now, keep up the good work!

—HEATHER

Dear SFB,

I'm reading your latest and decided I must write you.

It's said that the only thing wrong with Woodstock (1969) was that the people went home. I take that to mean corporate culture! If you witnessed Woodstock back in 1999 in Bethel, New York, you'd say that's really right on.

It's also been said that the only thing wrong with Earth First! is that it has constipation of the imagination. That's certainly true in these parts.

Defense of Mother Earth is in the defensive. If the Earth is really first, then it means offensive. Taking back the culture from the greed-insanity-ridden power freaks like Clinton 'n Bush. Who remembers Savings and Loans... the S&L scandal... So now it's racketeers. Some choice, eh?

But back to the offensive of taking the culture back, the human/natural condition away from the WTO, the trilateral commission, NASA and her nukes in space, e.g. science is the product etc. Think hard. Think

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economics with spirituality values, e.g. green values. Think *breaking dependency* on necessity(s) from corporations. Green groups on land trusts or co-ops in every town and village... world wide... all focused on breaking dependencies on corporations. Millions of such groups then you "pie" only for Saturday evening entertainment.

Offensive anyone? Let's get real!

—BRUCE SHEARER

Dear SFB,

Early Friday (10/22/99) I went to the Adorni Center in Eureka, Humboldt County, to peacefully express my concerns with the lifting of international trade tariffs, among other issues. I see the Trade, Investment and Tourism Conference, which was being held there that day, as a prelude to the WTO's agenda, which aims to abolish most tariff "and non-tariff" trade barriers for all WTO member countries to boost global exports, at the expense of labor, consumer, and environmental organizations. We stood on the public side walk, a one lane road and another wide sidewalk away from the building. Eureka police suddenly ordered us to move. I know of my right to peacefully assemble and express my opinion. When I asked for an explanation, the police officer grabbed my wrists. Shocked I requested he let me leave immediately, as I did not want a confrontation. I was arrested for "obstructing justice", handcuffed, booked, fingerprinted, photographed, searched, incarcerated at

the county jail. The first 24 hours I spend locked up in a maximum security holding cell, without breaks. I was then transferred to a solitary confinement in a small cold cell without outward looking windows, 20-minute breaks per day to use the phone and shower, loud noise outside the cell until midnight, woken with a "show your wristband!" yell at 6 a.m. The lights were on day and night. Finally, Monday afternoon they released me. Clearly they had no case against me, and the ridiculous charges were dropped. Ten other people were also arrested in similar circumstances. A key characteristic of a police state is that the police punish without judicial process as a means to instill fear through intimidation. The arbitrary arrest and harsh punishment was clearly politically motivated, as non-opinionated residents were allowed to stroll through the area unhindered. What kind of Country is this becoming?

—MICHAEL VAN BROCKHOVEN
HUMBOLDT NO-TO-WTO COALITION

Dear SFB,

There are some in society and government who think it would be "foolish" to release wolves in the state of West Virginia. There are some that have no roads or towns within a 192-square-mile area, except logging roads, which are not on any of my maps. To prevent inbreeding, they would have to be relocated from different areas of Canada and the US. After a time, certain members of the pack could be taken and relocated to other established pack areas. Such as, some members of pack 1 in the Cranberry Glades Wilderness area could be relocated to pack 2 in the Dolly Sods Wilderness area, etc.

It is imperative that any wolves released do not come from packs associated with humans, even animals kept in large outdoor enclosures. These animals are fed by having meat thrown at them by humans. This associates food with humans. They smell human scent on the food. Also, they cannot feed meat from livestock. I do believe it is possible to reintroduce wolves in the state of West Vir-

ginia, but only in the "wilder" areas. When I was younger it was nearly impossible to see raptors here. Now it is fairly common. In the spring of 1998, I witnessed the flight of a golden eagle in Greenbrier County. This is something I thought I'd never see. Maybe, if we put aside our fears, paranoias, and greed, just maybe, our children may witness wolves in our state.

—IVAN CALES

Dear SFB,

I feel like I have been out of touch with things after reading a few issues of the EFJ. Since I'm locked up in a state hotel for the last four years, I have been closed to what is really going on. So thank you for showing me what I have not been seeing or hearing. I wish I was out so I could join others in what is right but I am giving my support from behind some fences and barbed wire. There isn't many people where I am at who view their feelings or show any kind of support because they're caught up in their world that has been created around myself and others. I try not to let this place control my thoughts or visions of what I love and miss. I love to walk through mother earth's gardens and enjoy the treasures she has given us. I don't get that pleasure from where I'm at but thoughts and pictures in my mind bring a little peace to my daily life. It was my own choices to why I'm sitting where I am at, because I let myself get caught up in society's corruption with drugs and money and pushed what I truly love and care about in the back of my head and heart. I've let myself shed that corruption. I can realize what I truly love and that's freedom that comes with feeling the love from the Mother Earth's many gifts. She has a great power that I want to get back in touch with, but it is sad to see it slowly vanishing because of people's stupidity and greed.

I wish there was more that I could do and hope to be among the others out there in a few years to fight for what has given us so much and that is life. I love you, Mother Earth, for what you have given me and many others. Please print my name and address so hopefully I can receive some contact from people who wouldn't mind sharing their thoughts with me and who are not brainwashed by society's stupidity.

—MATTHEW CONRAD, #8908867
777 STANTON BLVD., ONTARIO, OR 97914

Dear SFB,

Hey now! I was recently able to get my grubbies on a copy of *Earth First!* At another facility and was reignited after some time of inaction; spiritual as well as physical. The boys here at Colorado DOC then jerked me over to a whole new facility where there is no library or access to the *Journal*. If you could please send me a subscription with the promise of future donations once I become a bit more solvent. That would be greatly appreciated.

Also I'm putting together a sort of index of rainforest defense and natural living structure to help educate myself and others who would rather stand up and be accounted for in our mother's great fight. Any schematics y'all or the readers can provide would be much appreciated. Also, I am a bit out of touch in general, and contact is sorely missed, missives of triumph, struggle, or greetings would be well received. Stand for what you stand on!

—B. LINDEY DAVIS D.O.C.
#99750 STERLING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
POB 6000 STERLING, CO 80751

Dear Comrades,

Receive warm greetings from your brothers and sisters in Island. Our Communication Commission (CC) was glad to read the article on Vieques recently included in EF! Thanks for keeping hundreds of activists, students, and subscribers to EF informed on this particular issue. With this letter we are including a Press Release that clearly states our position. Please if you want to keep a copy for your records after using the PR photocopy this one and completely destroy the original. *Revolucionariamente,*

For the last one hundred years, the United States Government has vilely manipulated the Puerto Rican people, turning our territory into a bastion of war and a gigantic base for military operations. Its purpose has not been, as they would lead us to believe, to have an appropriate place for their military training, and thus exercise the misleading policy of common defense with which all the political parties that have performed as the colony administrators have been enticed. No one could ever forget the endless list of aggressions directed towards our fellow nations such as the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Granada, and Guatemala that have been launched from our territory. Just the same, they have forced, and still force us, to keep their strategic forces on our land, supposedly in order to fight the narco traffic. No Latin American brother or sister should forget that for many decades the US government has utilized our territory for installing as well as supporting fascist regimes all over our Latin America whenever they have found it convenient.

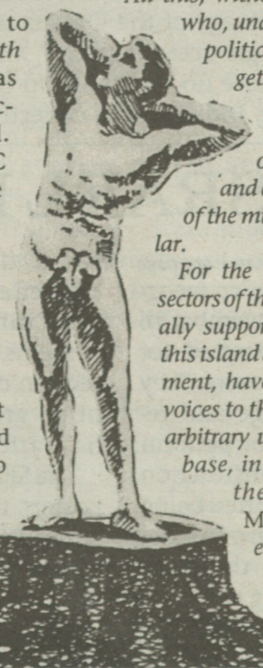
The Puerto Rican people have demanded for decades the retreat of their military training and the suspension of the constant bombardment our people of Vieques have been subject to. In too many instances we have been victims of their bombs, abuses, and assassinations, as it recently happened when a civilian got killed by the bombs thrown by their fighter bombers. The extremity of these abuses arise when they offer to rent our island for money as they advertise on different international organisms dedicated to warfare presenting our land as a paradise for training and bombing.

The last 15 July the US Navy secretary, Richard Danzig, let all the Puerto Rican people and authorities know that, according to himself, the utilization of our island of Vieques appears to be irreplaceable and indispensable for the yanquis military force, and that they are getting prepared for the restoration of the bombing over Vieques with live ammunition. All this, without any listening to our people

who, unanimously, from all the different political tendencies have joined together to state that Enough is Enough!, that we all agree that it has been enough abuse against our Puerto Rican people in general and against the ten thousand citizens of the municipality of Vieques in particular.

For the first time in our history those sectors of the population who have traditionally supported the US Navy occupation of this island as well as the ceaseless bombardment, have seen the light and joined their voices to those who have always fought the arbitrary use of our territory as a military base, in order to demand the retreat of the Navy from Vieques. The Macheteros totally support the expressions of determination which reflects the eagerness of those of us who for decades have struggled for the retreat of the said forces, not only from Vieques but from all of our Puerto Rico.

The Macheteros warn the military policy of the yanqui's Pentagon that if they were to restore the use of Vieques for their practices on target shooting, we will energetically respond. They must not be mistaken and underestimate not



UNDER 300 WORDS... OR ELSE!

pressed by the representative's of the Vieques community—Doña Alba Encarnación, Mr. Carlos Ventura, Carlos Zenón, Ismael Guadalupe, Roberto Rabín, and many others who have publicly spoke against responding with the same violence that the US Navy applies over Vieques. So far we have respected this initiative originated inside the community. However, if the US Navy policy is that of once more attacking our Isla Nena, turning it into a shooting target, and continue to seriously harm not only the population as a whole, but also the fishermen and the environment, the Macheteros will respond with the strength that it requires, wherever it may be required. Do not force us to do it! Viva Puerto Rico Libre. Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

Dear SFB,

The town of Townsend, Tennessee, which borders the Great Smoky Mountains is currently beginning a major road project. The town of Townsend, which has always prided itself on being the "Quiet Side of the Smokies," has with little or no fight—given in to a handful of businesses which want to increase traffic, increase tourism, and of course, increase revenue. A few long-term residents have opposed this project, but because most of them are struggling farmers with little political clout, their opposition has been ignored.

So far, the existing two-way roadway leading into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (through Townsend) has been rerouted to allow for completely leveling beautiful hills and small mountains, clear cutting all trees that lie in the path of the new roadway and excavation of all areas surrounding the planned project. I have been reported (in the Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper) that some of the areas being excavated are sacred to the nearby Cherokee Indians. And archaeological teams from the University of Tennessee are frantically working to recover artifacts and other Indian relics before it's too late.

I'm contacting you because of the arrogance of the small group of council members that refuse to acknowledge that many local people simply do not want this project. It should be noted that most of these council people are also local business owners who would profit directly from this project. The Great Smoky Mountains are truly a national treasure—with some of the most diverse plant and animal life in the entire US. Much of it has already been damaged by careless development and unplanned growth near and around the park. Many of the people in this area struggle to make a living, so they don't have the resources to influence the politicians or have much of a say in what is happening in their community. A group like Earth First! Has resources to—at the very least—be heard by these elected idiots. Is there anything that can be done?

Sincerely and respectfully,

—RIK LANEY

Dear SFB,

It occurs to me I should subscribe to your magazine and not be a free loader all the time. Thanks for the call telling me you're going to use "Starting Over" on the cover of your magazine. I'll be looking forward to that issue!

I hope I can someday do more to help out your cause. Some issues are so complicated it's difficult to know what's really true—and in some what may be accepted as the best way, really isn't. As an example (and I don't know how your organization feels about this): I have had years of experience running an irrigated ranch and also head-

ing an irrigation company. Well, contrary to what most believe, sprinkler irrigation wastes far more water than flood irrigation. I have written articles on this trying to get rid of government installation of sprinklers (articles were published) but haven't had any luck.

Where sprinklers are used the surface of waters exposed to evaporation is multiplied roughly 1,000 times. And although flood irrigation appears to waste water, that water actually goes into the aquifer, comes out somewhere as springs and isn't wasted at all. I mention the above just as an example. But I realize your magazine takes a more direct way to deal with problems, and often that's the only way. And thanks for your courage.

Sincerely,

—BILL OHRMANN

Dear Earth First!

Thank you so much for the free sample. I just wanted to enlighten you on Darwinian Theory, which is as "silly" as the articles you've highlighted in Vol. 20 No 1.

Quote, "Darwinian theories reinforced beliefs that species survival was more important than individual fulfillment. Much as the social Gospel used the Darwinian idea of the survival of the wealth and privilege in American society, scientific defenders of patriarchy just find the definition of women through their maternal role and their exclusion from economic and educational opportunities as serving the best interests of species survival," (from Gerda Lerner, "The Creation of Patriarchy"). This of course leads to sexism, racism and all the other isms of prejudices. I'd like to see more eco-warriors rather than ego-warriors.

By the way, womb-like environments in nature have existed for 2.5 billion years, whereas the first penis appeared 200 million years ago. The later category winning 17 of 18 awards (in your Darwinian contest) for hideous, ridiculous and cocky pranks.

Thanks again! Look forward to the next issue.

—SHARON PUKIS

Dear SFB,

I recently had a chance to read your publication and appreciated being able to do so immensely. Yes, it was great to read something "real" for a change.

Well, I am 26, part Native American and on Death Row for a crime I didn't commit. I have very little contact with the outside world. Not only am I facing execution for someone else's action—but, living in a place where the "powers that be" are beating and killing prisoners at will. Thankfully though nine of them were caught doing so in July and are currently "under investigation." Hopefully they won't get away with it... again. Anyway, I am extremely interested and quite concerned about all the issues in EF! and would very much enjoy hearing from anyone who is the same.

If you would publish this letter I would appreciate it greatly. Thank you and keep up the good fight!

PS. If possible I would like to be placed on your mailing list.

—JACK SLINNEY #905288

UNION CORRECTIONAL

INSTITUTION

U.C.I.-A1-P-1-10-S

POB 221, RAIFORD, FL

32083

Dear SFB,

Our lives are saturated with commercial hype. Enter any building and you're likely to hear a radio playing a mix of music and commercial chatter. Open any newspaper or magazine and you'll see mostly advertising, sometimes in the form of promotions masquerading as news (like the latest Star Wars movie on the front page of some papers every day for a week). Mailboxes are filled with junk mail, junk messages clog the internet, billboards dot the landscape and some businesses even want to launch their logos into orbit and make them a permanent part of the night sky.

But marketing, advertising and public relations aren't just esthetic nuisances. Together they make up an industry of manipulation that debases our culture, and we debase ourselves by accepting its propaganda as part of our daily lives. This industry, the ultimate expression of corporate culture, encourages us to tolerate self-serving phoniness, to give in to our impulses, to be wasteful, and we accept this. More and more we ignore the moral implications of what we do economically, whether at work or while shopping. We are becoming a nation of cynical mass-consumers, and such a nation will not be a democracy for long.

If we end up as nothing more than "human resources," we'll have only ourselves to blame. Corporate tyranny would own our souls. To prevent this disaster, we must reassert our moral awareness and reject the false, manipulative culture of corporate advertising. Boycotting, activism and political action should all be part of this effort.

Imagine a life without a constant information pollution. No more inane catch phrases, robotic dialogues or mutated rock jungles, no more hysterical superficiality or status symbols subtly crafted to play on our insecurities. Honesty, civility and common sense would at last be able to make themselves heard over the noise of our media, and genuine reform of our society would be a lot more likely to happen.

So I think there is a lot of latent revolution out there in mainstream society just waiting to be tapped that could greatly strengthen anti-corporate resistance overall.

—PAN TROGLODYTES

Dear Earth First! editor,

The 2,000-hectare Jatun Sacha Biological Station, which is in the upper Napo River watershed in Amazonian Ecuador is under threat. The county works commissioner, Dr. Edison Chavez, is again... this is not the first time... threatening to build a road, and now we have to spend money hiring lawyers to defend against him and press our own lawsuit against Mr. Chavez. Jatun Sacha, which was named the second international Children's rainforest, houses some of the most species rich forest in the world. Studies have indicated extremely high levels of biodiversity for trees, birds, butterflies, fungi and other groups. We also have a very active community extension program which in-

cludes reforestation, handicraft production and the direct sale of organically grown coffee and cacao.

Mr. Chavez has a history of pulling this type of stunt with other conservation groups in the region who have not had the resources nor the willingness to stand up to him. We will stand up to him

by presenting a number of lawsuits against him to stop the road construction. His mode of operation is to go into communities, promise payment or gifts to gain support and ends up dividing the communities and putting them into internal conflict. He organized a group of thugs to rebuild a road into one of the Rincance ecotourism projects in the region, and

they cut off one of the Rincancae representative's arms with a chain saw. Also through his contacts he was able to remove the National Park service employee, Franco Guterrez, who was trying to oppose this road construction, from his position in the Tena office. He also organized a road construction

for wood removal and oil development in another reserve project dedicated to the reintroduction of animals

taken from animal traffickers into a reserve area of environmental impact studies. A few hours later, the tractors came in and opened a road through the middle of the forest, again in the most ecologically sensitive part.

We consider Mr. Chavez a criminal and are going to use all the resources at our defense to stop his criminal actions about nature and people in this region.

—JATUN SACHA FOUNDATION,

CASILLA 17-12-867

QUITO, ECUADOR

Dear SFB,

Suppose that we decide to accept that the premise set forth by Associated Contract Loggers is true; the USFS is being drawn into religion-based decision making by socio-political forces using "pseudo-science" to further deeply spiritual agendas.

Note immediately that on the one hand, the single-minded pursuit of many is as spiritual (albeit demonic) as the pursuit of ecological wholeness, and on the other hand, science is widely held to be the religion of the majority of today's US citizens. This being the case, ACL is equally culpable by trying to force the USFS to endorse their gods and spiritual systems.

A moment's thought will show that the notion that we can divorce our deepest spiritual leanings from our public professions is a fiction. And this fiction is supported only by ever-shifting common wisdom as to what is secular and what is sacred.

The ACL seeks to enshrine one view of the common wisdom, that commerce and manufacturing are secular, hence under the protection of government, while wildness and wholeness are spiritual, thus outside such protection. We, however, seek to bring forth a different view, that the *Vox Populi* is the arbiter of what concerns our government—and further, that we are that voice. And since, by the grace of God, we have come beyond the craving to carve our initials on the face of our forests, have surpasses manipulative possessiveness to arrive at Deep Love for our beautiful Gaia, then that is the appropriate stance for our government's agencies, serving as the administrators of The People's Will, to take.

—EMILY SPRAGUE

Frontlines

Puerto Ricans protest Navy's use of water

The US Navy's sprawling Roosevelt Roads base in Puerto Rico was cut off from its main source of water when activists disconnected and plugged intake pipes for much of the day October 29 as a recent protest against the US military in the island territory.

Members of the Water for All Movement, based on Puerto Rico's east coast blocked off the water intake to the Navy base because of inaction on the part of government officials over the Navy's alleged illegal use of water from the Blanco River in Naguabo.

In July, commonwealth officials charged that the Navy's use of water from the Blanco River was illegal because it failed to get a water franchise permit required by a recent law. But the Navy said it was issued a permit in 1942 and does not need a franchise. Nor does it need to pay because it does not use commonwealth water distribution systems but transports and treats the water using its own infrastructure. The Navy says the base uses about two million gallons of water a day, but protesters claim Roosevelt Roads actually draws about four million gallons.

The confrontation has exacerbated tensions between the Navy and Puerto Rico. Political leaders and residents have been striving to get the Navy to stop its military maneuvers on Vieques and return the two-thirds of the island it holds to the local government. Navy officials say the base plays an integral role in preparing its members for combat and is therefore essential to national defense. Aided by powerful Congressional allies, the Navy is pressing to lift a temporary ban on "live-fire" training on Vieques.

International Anti-McDonald's Day

The 15th annual Worldwide Anti-McDonald's Day was on October 16 (UN World Food Day). It was a protest against the promotion of junk food, the unethical targeting of children, exploitation of workers, animal cruelty, damage to the environment and the global domination of corporations over our lives. There were 425 protests and pickets in 345 towns in 23 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the USA.

On October 15 there was also a day of action against McDonald's all over France called by the *Farmers of Confederation Paysanne*.

Since 1990 three million leaflets have been handed out in the UK and it is now distributed worldwide. There are also copies in 27 languages.

As well as the mass distribution of leaflets by thousands of local activists, the global campaign against McDonald's has continued to grow this year. There have been millions of hits to 'McSpotlight,' many determined residents' campaigns against new stores, mass anti-McDonald's protests, a crew unionization success in a store in Canada and general bad publicity for the corporation.

Contact the McLibel Support Campaign, London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, UK; (440) 171-713 1269; mclibel@globalnet.co.uk; www.mcspotlight.org.

TOWERS TUMBLE DOWN

continued from front page

In an unprecedented action in the early morning hours of September 30, Pemon warriors downed one of the steel towers that had been installed in the Gran Sabana. In the days that followed, four other towers were downed, two in the Imataca Forest and two more in the Gran Sabana. Each tower is nearly 100 feet tall and costs \$47,000 to construct.

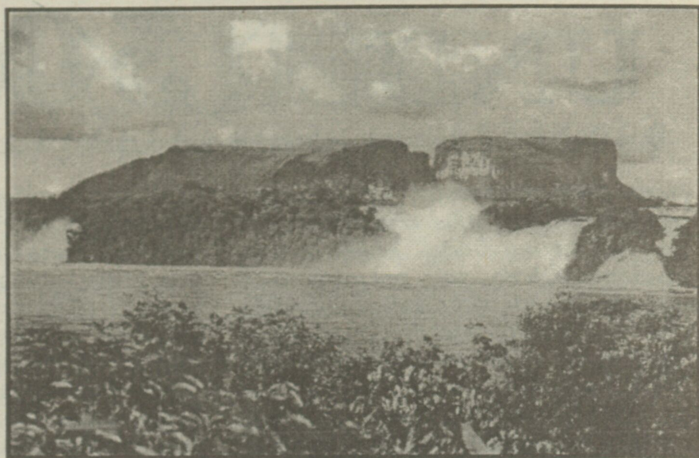
On October 1, the National Guard responded by sending 200 guards to surround more than 500 indigenous protesters and warned them that if they did not disperse, more troops would be sent in. The Pemon held steadfast to their demand to meet with President Chavez, rejecting negotiations with the head of the National Guard for Bolivar State.

During the week of protests, President Hugo Chavez had been on a European trip. Upon his return to Caracas, he held a press conference on matters of national interest. At the conference, the Associated Press reporter who had been advised by Amazon Watch of the growing conflict asked the completely unaware president about his views on the Pemon protests. At 11 p.m. that evening, a military envoy reached Pemon leaders and notified them that a high-level government delegation would be there by early afternoon the next day to meet. On October 5, the government delegation made up of the country's Minister of Defense along with the Minister of Environment, the head of the National Guard, the President of CVG and the Minister of Mines and Energy arrived in Santa Elena (near the Brazilian border).

The Pemon rejected talks with the delegation, insisting that they would only negotiate with President Chavez. The government delegation made a pledge to suspend all construction in the Gran Sabana until the land rights issues were resolved. Eventually, the Pemon reluctantly accepted this pledge and agreed to not down more power lines as long as construction was suspended. However, they continue to demand a meeting with President Chavez began to hold ongoing round table talks with indigenous leaders.

On October 7, reports surfaced in the Imataca communities that CVG contractors and subsidiaries had attempted to bribe at least two communities with offers of money (one offer was a cash bribe of \$16,000), food (bags of rice with the logo of the construction contractor subsidiary) and sporting goods in exchange for damages done to the power line. This action was strongly denounced by the Pemon on who reaffirmed their opposition saying, "With these actions, the corporations are attempting to buy the conscience of indigenous peoples of Imataca. Since the beginning, our demands have been clear: We do not want Band-Aids and trinkets, what we want is title to our territories and the administration and management of our natural resources. We are tired of the government and company's lack of respect for us, who try to diminish our struggle and continue their 'business-as-usual.' Our territories are not for sale; they are not to be bought; they are to be respected."

Following their denouncement, a military escort came and requested that Captain Juvencio Gomez, the chief of the Gran Sabana Pemon, come to the military base. That morning, a phone call came in from President Chavez who pledged his commitment to help resolve the land conflict and committed to meet with Pemon leaders in the near future. The next day, Chavez left Venezuela for a 23-day tour of Asia and Europe. For the time being, things are at a



Waterfall in Pemon ancestral homeland

stand still, although there is some optimism that Venezuela's new president is perhaps more willing than his predecessors to address land rights for the country's indigenous peoples.

The path ahead

Venezuela's indigenous peoples have faced fundamental challenges from Venezuela's weak land rights laws—laws which do not offer legal guarantees to their ancestral lands. That is now changing. In a historic process initiated by the populist President Chavez, a constitutional assembly was convened in August to write a new constitution that stamps out corruption and injustice. Three indigenous delegates chosen during a national indigenous congress, including Jose Luis Gonzales the Pemon President of the Indigenous Federation of Bolivar, participated in this process as part of a 131-member assembly. On November 11, the assembly concluded its deliberations and gave final approval to a final draft of the new constitution that will be sent to the public for a referendum vote in mid-December. The proposed constitution includes an entire chapter on the rights of indigenous peoples in Venezuela.

Nearly all of the articles that were drafted and proposed by the indigenous movement—including the right to receive title for land claimed by indigenous peoples—were approved, signaling a major victory for peoples such as the Pemon. The struggle of the Pemon against the Guri power line has been a visible symbol of the indigenous rights movement in Venezuela and has no doubt contributed to the recent constitutional victory.

There are still hurdles ahead. The Venezuelan public must approve the new constitution. Then there are many challenges before land titles can be granted—a process which is likely to take years. First a process for settling land claims must be developed and then land claims reviewed and legalized.

In the mean time, President Chavez still has a promise to fulfill to meet with Pemon leaders and to take measures to resolve the controversy surrounding the Guri power line. Whether the Pemon succeed in stopping the project or whether they receive legal recognition and decisions-making authority on future development decision remains to be seen. Surely, the tide of globalization will spark additional waves.

Atossa Soltani is director of Amazon Watch. The Amazon Watch communications team has been supporting the struggle of indigenous people in Venezuela by providing media outreach, fundraising and the transfer of much needed communications equipment. For more information and to support these efforts, contact Amazon Watch, 20110 Rockport Way, Malibu, CA 90265; (310) 456-1340; 456-0388 (fax); asoltani@igc.org; www.amazonwatch.org.

HAMMERING A NUCLEAR LAB

continued from front page

This judgment has enormous implications for the future. Now there is an incredible opportunity to have a fully informed and rational debate about nuclear weapons and enough information around about how close we are to catastrophe. All activists like us can do is bring the issues into the light. It is for governments to complete our actions.

At our trial, we were charged with criminal mischief and theft, but you can view our actions as crimes only if you look at the whole thing very superficially. If you break down the door of a burning house to save the baby inside, that's not criminal damage to the door but an act of necessity to save the baby's life. I did not disarm the laboratory on a whim or in anger; I had tried everything else and there was no other reasonable legal alterna-

tive. We spent five months planning the action, making sure what we were doing was safe, accountable and non-violent. We also had to ensure our personal affairs were in order in case we ended up spending years in jail.

I've been involved in campaigning since the early 70s when I read the first issue of *The Ecologist* which highlighted global problems such as nuclear weapons, destruction of the ozone layer and massive species loss. I was part of a delegation that went to see Robin Cook before the Labour victory in 1997. He promised he would do things and said next time he saw us he would be in a bigger office. Well, he's got a bigger office, but he's done nothing.

All the time, this government shames me. We don't have to earn our living by selling arms. I thought when Britain gave up on colonialism, it would

behave in a more morally responsible way, but it still treats the majority of people in the world with disrespect.

It's very important to have a dream, a vision for human beings to reach their full capabilities, to love and be loved. I'm always full of hope that we will achieve this, and that is why I've ended up on trial so often. I was involved in the Snowball campaign, snipping wires at nuclear bases, and my action helped raise awareness of the Hawk jets bound for Indonesia. But I am not getting involved in any more direct action at the moment; it's time to support other Trident Ploughshares activists. Men as well as women are involved, and we have pledged to disable Britain's nuclear deterrent, to prevent it ever being used for the murder of innocent civilians.

If the world is to survive, we have to get rid of nuclear weapons sooner or later. I hope it will be sooner.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

RE: MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL/VALLEY FILL CONSENT DECREE

Drought southwest of West Virginia,
In Kentucky, Tennessee and further;
so much open space, dead grass,
low slopes, brown lands,
rock islands of standing dead trees.
No water in the air.

Our remaining hills stayed green this summer
waiting for rain that didn't come.
Under trees among steep hollers,
air holds water over and under ground.
Coal smoke that fires the air, oven dries it;
requires Earth's womb open to the sun unprotected.
No longer moon flowing, bleeds mortally wounded.
Fat skin thins, dries, blows over bones, gone.

New century's water rights negated,
the next generation star trek
because a barren planet
cannot keep them.
Is that the plan?
A new world order
to wander, another
mandate from God
to leave Eden again?
What have we done this time?

—Jaen Sydney

WHAT MY FOREST USED TO BE

I once
was breathing purple
Lapping up
Tick-tock pine needles
And melting earth

It used to seep into me
But now
Is plasticized
And tastes
Of grieving sugarcane
Giving way
To slippery packets of calorie-free pastels

I grab hold
To burnt leaves
And smoggy rain drops

Blinking back my ocean
'cause I know
they'd suck its salt away

To sprinkle
(heavily)
over thirty-nine cent macaroni and cheese
hurriedly spilt
on neckties tied too tightly

I would sit
underneath
willows
(that did indeed weep)
and amongst silly twigs
bent into nature's alphabet
spelling
plain as day
(clear not being
a viable phrase)
Where is our salvation?

—Autumn Sonnsichen



*Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous*

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Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
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Berkeley CA 94720-4510

FREE FALLING

Life's a bitch.
Work is hard and brutal.
Life is short and then you die.
I'm here bustin' ass & sweatin'
like a pig.
Life is hard in the city.
Work is hard and the concrete
streets are real.
Gotta pay for a place to stay.
Side by side we work.
Gotta case of the ass and no
elbow room?
God, please don't let one now, not
at our work station!
Lest another worker bump me
and take my place.
Ohhhh Jesus! Sweet, sweet Jesus!
Where does the word 'hunky' come
from anyway?
At least we don't see the ad in the
newspapers any more.
Lookin' fer boys with high school
diplomas.
To go to work in the nuke plants
mops and buckets in hand.
Oh, if only they knew what they
were gettin' themselves into!
Gotta justify our jobs with
production,
And make sure the workers aren't
fucked over too much.
For the collapse of industry
We learned to monkeywrench
When threatened by the takeover
of the machine!
Here in the Great Lakes
We're forced to put all faith
In the great PCB removing
Hydraulic dredge
It sucks out the concentrated
plumes
Remnants of the paper mills
Dispersal of PCB contamination
to save our skin.
What's it like out west?

—Foyola

STILL DON'T NEED A CAR NO BRONCO ENVY HERE

You may think I envy
the dewdrop diamond shine
of your brand new car
but I pity you the loss
of the night birds' song
when the party has gone on
until after dewfall
and I wipe my seat
with my sleeve
before pedaling off
into the cool felt night
of bike experience, and you
are a slave to your chamois buff cloth
on Saturday Car-wash-day
while the water of the world
flows unattended from your hose
into the gutter.

—JIB

NEW VIDEO ON NATIONAL FOREST PROTECTION FROM GREEN FIRE

To help build citizen support for National Forest protection, Green Fire Productions has released a new inspiring and motivational grassroots organizing video, *Ancient Forests: The Power of Place*. It contains stunning footage of the few remaining ancient forests, and compelling testimony from an historian, conservationists, Native Americans, community leaders and others. The viewer is guided through landmark decisions in the history of our national forests to an urgent call to action to protect the public forests which remain at risk of destruction.

It recently won first prize in the "Forest" category at the EarthVision Environmental Film Festival in Santa Cruz, California.

Copies can be purchased for \$10 each, including shipping, (bulk pricing available) by contacting Green Fire at (503)736-1295 info@greenmedia.org.

WTO RESISTANCE JOURNAL

QUICK! WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS WHILE THEY ARE FRESH IN YOUR HEAD. WE WANT *BIG-PICTURE CRITICAL ANALYSIS* OF THE WTO RESISTANCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON WRITING RELEVANT TO BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION (RESISTING GLOBAL CAPITALISM, STATISM, AND OTHER DOMINATION). OF COURSE WE ALSO WANT EXCITING, EMPOWERING, FUNNY AND/OR TOTALLY-FUCKED, GAS-CHOKING STORIES OR PHOTOS FROM THE FRONTLINES OF WTO DIRECT ACTION.

THE JOURNAL WILL BE EDITED FROM AN ANARCHIST PERSPECTIVE. TO ENSURE THIS AND ITS STATED MISSION, IT IS CURRENTLY AUTONOMOUS FROM THE "N30 REFLECTIONS" MENTIONED IN THE ACTION PACKETS. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO COMBINING THE PROJECTS IF THERE ARE NO COMPROMISES. PLEASE MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: WTO ANALYSIS, POB 1415, EUGENE, OR 97440; WTOANALYSIS@VISTO.COM.

People & Planet-Friendly Events Ontario, Canada

Coalition for a Green Economic Recovery, Thurs. Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Topic: t.b.a. Member's Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. Free. Followed by an hour of the coalition's inspired networking! Contact Michael Berger at (416)782-4589 <http://www.web.net/ecorecov>.

Organic Conference & Eco-Products Trades Show, Thurs. Jan 27 - Sun. Jan. 30, 2000, Univ. of Guelph. Largest organic event in Canada. New, 4-day program; 35 speakers.

Ontario Horticultural Crops Annual Conference & Trade Show, Wed. Feb. 16-17, 2000. In conjunction with Farmer's Markets Ontario networking symposium. Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Rd., Toronto. \$40/day. Call Kevin Schooley (613)258-8359; kschoole@omafr.gov.on.ca

SEED Environmental Conference

Sponsored by Students for Environmental and Ecological Development it draws students, faculty members, and concerned citizens from areas all over the Midwest. The day long event includes workshops, discussions, and lectures to share knowledge and experience, create networks, and turn ideas into actions. The conference's target audience, which would include university activists, would have much to gain from the inspiration and motivation that a speaker from your organization could provide. If you would be interested in sending a speaker or workshop leader to this conference, please let me know and we can pursue the idea further and make the necessary arrangements. Contact Terri Kandalepas at, tkandal@nwu.edu, or (847)328-1826.

Experienced activist needed for Biodiversity Project

for paid (minimum wage salary) position with the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. Experience with legal timber sale monitoring required and also interest or background in ending corporate dominance work. Office and hiking skills necessary. No computer use involved. Must be self-motivated and willing to live in Eastern Oregon. Minimum one year commitment. Send resume and extensive activist references with your phone number and mailing address to:

Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project

HCR-82

Fossil, Oregon 97830

(541)468-2028

International Pelagic Shark Workshop

February 14 - 17

Hosted by the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, a coalition of six conservation groups working to protect sharks and other large ocean fish, this scientific workshop will focus on stock assessments of pelagic sharks in all major ocean basins.

We invite fisheries scientists, managers, conservationists, fishing industry members, shark biologists, marine educators and interested individuals to join the symposium.

Contact the coordinators at owc@audubon.org, (516-581-5268 fax), or at the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, 550 South Bay Avenue Islip, NY 11751; www.audubon.org/campaign/lo/ow.

Heartwood's year 2000 meeting schedule:

Council meeting: March 24-26 in the southern region

Forest Council: Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29 in Camp Blanton in southern Kentucky

Council meeting: July 28-30 in Pennsylvania For those interested, we can head on the Washington DC to lobby afterwards. There is a campground NE of DC not too far from the metro for driving into DC.

Reunion: October 6-8 at the Lazy Black Bear in Paoli, Indiana.

for more information contact: (812)337-2430 or info@heartwood.org

GREEN ANARCHIST

THE MILLENNIUM DOUBLE ISSUE (GA57/58) INTERVIEW WITH TED KACZINSKI, Y2K SURVIVAL GUIDE, JUNE 18 REPORTS, JOHN BALL, IRRATIONALISTS AND MORE. \$2 FROM GA-USA, POB 11331, EUGENE, OR 97440, USA

EF! Organizers' Conference 2000

Winter Fiesta and 20th Anniversary Hike (this time for real)

February 10-13

The EF! beach party you've all been waiting for is just around the corner (again). The only thing is that it's not going to be at a beach, although there will be plenty of sand. This year we are going to meet in the mystically beautiful desert known as the Mojave. But, don't be in a big hurry to pack up the beach ball, because we might freeze our asses off—winter temperatures can dip to below freezing although average daytime highs are in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Despite the chill we will be having the Earth First! Organizers Conference 2000.

The whole show starts on Thursday, February 10. (Meeting junkies should show up beforehand to help work out the particulars of this year's agenda.) The first official meeting will be at 7 p.m. sharp! The conference continues Friday and Saturday until the afternoon of Sunday the 13th. With WTO, Y2K, grand juries and the painful EF! Journal meeting at the RRR in Colorado, we'll have a lot to talk about this year.

Here are a few travel tips:

Bring your own food as well as food for community dinners and lots of water. Be prepared for windy, cold weather. Bring plenty of firewood for the campfires since there are no trees in the desert. This is particularly important: *Bring firewood* or there won't be any fires and *bring water* or you will be thirsty. This is car camping, so bring extra blankets and contact the committee if you can bring any large canvas tents for meetings. The cost of the conference is \$20. The directions to drive or bike from Baker, California, are: Go south into the Mojave Desert, follow I-15 for 42.2 miles, turn north onto Kalbaker Road, proceed 14 miles to the site.

So, come and join us on the dunes! For more information, contact the Earth First! O.C. 2000, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440, earthfirst@igc.org (put "conference" in the subject line). For ride coordination contact Delyla, (541) 312-3453; kitchenwitchrune@yahoo.com. Travel money may be available to encourage representation of as many bioregions as possible.

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Frontlines

Attack on campesinos

A peaceful October 12 demonstration by some 5,000 campesinos in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, ended in violence after riot police attacked protesters with tear gas, gunfire and clubs. The protesters came from all over Honduras for a march timed to coincide with the anniversary of the arrival of European explorer Christopher Columbus in the Americas. The marchers had many demands, but the principal demand was for the repeal of reforms passed earlier this year to article 107 of the Constitution which would allow foreigners to legally purchase properties on the coast. The reforms would result in the displacement of thousands of residents in coastal areas.

The lively and peaceful march began in front of the Supreme Court building and continued on to several other government buildings. At each building, delegations of protesters met with officials or handed over documents detailing their demands. When the marchers got within about three blocks of the presidential palace, some 100 police in riot gear stopped them from continuing. A small group negotiated with the troops for about an hour, seeking to allow the march to reach the palace. According to press accounts, stones were then thrown at police, and police responded by hurling tear gas canisters and beating demonstrators—even though the stones were not thrown from the direction of the crowd.

The protest was part of an international movement known as the "Cry of the Excluded" being carried out by peasant organizations all over the world as the start of a campaign for agrarian reform. It is being carried out in countries such as India, the Philippines, Nepal, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico. The movement's slogan is "Bread, Land and Freedom."

Activists disrupt meeting

A total of 11 activists from Northcoast Earth First!, the Northern Humboldt No-To-WTO Coalition and the Progressive Alliance were arrested November 4 protesting at the International Conference on Trade, Investment and Tourism for Humboldt Bay and the North Coast, in Eureka, CA.

Early in the morning five Northcoast Earth First! activists hung a banner from the roof of the building which read "Free Trade: Our World For Corporate Profits." They were quickly brought down and arrested.

Later in the day another activist was arrested for holding a sign in a window. A second person was arrested when he questioned police officers about the arrest of the sign holder. He refused to leave and was subjected to pain compliance holds and carried off. Three more activists were arrested for crossing an arbitrary line near the window view that had been drawn by police. The trade conference was as a prelude to the Third World Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

Particularly at issue in the Humboldt Bay region are the plans for continued dredging of Humboldt Bay in order to get large foreign ships into the area carrying raw logs from Siberia and Indonesia. The dredging has been intensely destructive, reaking environmental havoc on fragile bay habitat and resulting in two large oil spills.

The demonstration also featured a picket line and the Earth First! Armada, which took to the bay with kayaks and bull horns, yelling, hooting, disrupting and heckling the meeting throughout the event.

DEAR NED LUDD

DEAR NED LUDD IS AN IRREGULAR FEATURE IN THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL FOR DISCUSSION OF CREATIVE MEANS OF EFFECTIVE DEFENSE OF THE EARTH. NEITHER THE EARTH FIRST! MOVEMENT NOR THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL NECESSARILY ENCOURAGE ANYONE TO DO THE THINGS DISCUSSED IN DEAR NED LUDD. PLEASE SEND US YOUR

Dear Ned Ludd:

I recently learned that the US Government sells mining claims for \$2.50-\$5.00 an acre. I would like to secure a claim in New Mexico, but I do not know how to go about it.

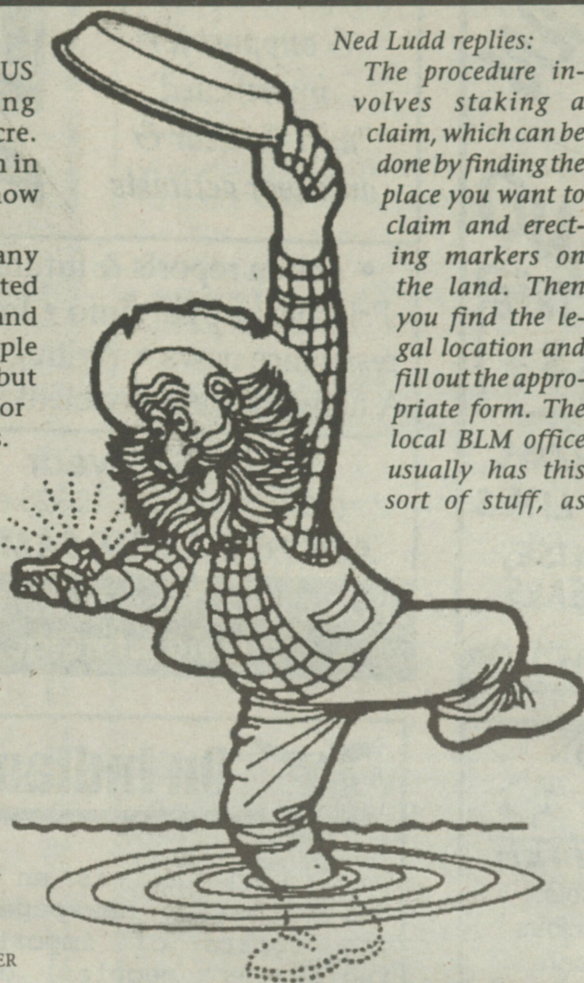
I do not plan on using any equipment more sophisticated than a gold pan and a hand held sluice box, strictly people power. I certainly love gold but most of my digging will be for organic vegetables and herbs.

I have hopes for one claim above Taos for the spring and summer, and one claim in the Gila National Forest in the winter. In the autumn, I will blow into Eugene spilling nuggets about the EF! lodges and council fires.

If you can enlighten me on how to work the system to obtain mining claims, I will be in your debt. I also need some information on hemp tents and teepees.

Yours truly,

—LESTER



Ned Ludd replies:

The procedure involves staking a claim, which can be done by finding the place you want to claim and erecting markers on the land. Then you find the legal location and fill out the appropriate form. The local BLM office usually has this sort of stuff, as

well as a "helpful, informative" guide to help you through the legal hoops.

You can theoretically patent a 20 acre claim for a \$12.50 filing fee, and there is also a per acre fee for claims, about a buck an acre a year or something ridiculous. You can own up to five of these 20 acre claims for one fee, and the annual assessment is customarily waived for less than five claims.

The entire mining patenting process has been technically suspended, which means mining companies now just cut back room deals without even a nod to process. But since the process is suspended, it is tough to employ and has effectively sabotaged itself and made mining a truly lawless game.

As long as this process is—suspended, I'm not sure how you could go about filing claims, legitimate or frivolous. There are people who acted when the law was clear and now block mining on several fine watersheds with their low-cost easy-maintenance mining claims (there is a requirement that \$10 worth of improvements be performed every year, for example). So there you go. Call up the BLM, wriggle up the arse of the beastie, and be sure to bring a good flashlight!

EARTH NIGHT NEWS

Who Says that Cutting Down Trees is Always Bad?

October was a busy month for anti-genetic engineering actions. At least three separate actions, including two attacks on mutant trees, took place.

In Canada, two underground groups opposed to genetic engineering (GE) destroyed approximately 1,500 trees grown for GE research in two separate incidents in Vancouver and Saanich, British Columbia, on October 27 and 31.

Reclaim the Genes leveled 500 GE evergreen saplings at the Silvagen Inc. site in Vancouver, near the University of British Columbia.

The action occurred in conjunction with a US day of action against GE. "We Canucks wanted to put Canada on the map as inhospitable to the mad science of genetic engineering," said Gerrard Winstanley, spokesperson for Reclaim the Genes. "Our action will serve as a message to the WTO that genetic engineering will not be tolerated in Canada."

The Genetix Goblins destroyed 1,000 cedar, Douglas fir and assorted evergreen trees at Western Forest Products' (Westfor) Saanich Forestry Center on Halloween night (trick...

or treat?) and charged Westfor with intending to replace temperate rainforests with genetically mutilated frankenforests. "The only way to intercept the release of biohazards into the environment is to derail this runaway 'Frankenscience' now!" declared the group's communiqué.

In the US, an underground group opposed to GE claimed responsibility for breaking windows at the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Pioneer Hi-Bred facility on October 27. Seeds of Resistance charged Pioneer and other proponents of GE with deceiving the public and profiting off of growing GE crops. "Seeing their profits as a slap in the face of the Earth

and all its occupants, we took the liberty of paying them back," said the communiqué. "We, Seeds of Resistance, smashed all the windows on one side of their disgusting building. Wisconsin is now another state that cannot hide from this growing resistance against GE culture."

These actions are the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth known non-violent destruction of GE crops or other related property in North America this year and the first known attacks in Canada. Details of past anti-GE actions are available at www.tao.ca/~ban/ar.htm.

ALF Strikes in Washington

In Bellingham, Washington, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) carried out its third successful laboratory raid in the past six months. The latest target was the psychology labs at Western Washington University, which was hit the morning of October 24.

Vivisector Merle Prim was the target of this raid according to a communiqué received by the North American ALF Press Office. The communiqué also stated that "the entire contents of Prim's office... were piled on the floor and soaked in two gallons of muriatic acid." It continues, "The office of the animal 'caretaker' was devastated and all documents related to animal torture destroyed."

More from the communiqué: "We entered the building after midnight, first destroying Prim's lifetime of research derived from torturing primates, and seizing crucial documents related to animal research. We then made our way to the animal labs in the basement, locating a set of keys in an unlocked office. We made our way through the animal rooms, entering 7 rooms and rescuing 3 rabbits and 28 rats from the hands of deranged vivisectors. Sadly we were unable to liberate 8 rabbits due to electrode implants, but documented their horrendous condition on video. We also came across large lizards that were not able to be liberated."

"The last time the ALF raided a Washington State lab was eight years ago in 1991 when the Fur Animal Research Facility at WSU in Pullman was targeted," comments David Barbarash, ALF spokesperson.

Earth First! Trinkets and Snake Oil

BOOKS FROM THE EARTH FIRST! LIBRARY

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By Edward Abbey. A damn good book about people who like to fuck shit up. Fiction, 387 pages. \$7

Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness

By Edward Abbey. The naturalist poetically shares his experience as a ranger in desert country. Nonfiction, 337 pages. \$7

The End of Nature

By Bill McKibben. A compilation of apocalyptic theory and bottom line solutions. McKibben pulls no punches in this enlightening science-based thrashing of industrial society. Nonfiction, 226 pages. \$12

Anarchist Farm

By Jane Doe. This anarchist version of *Animal Farm* will inspire activists young and old. Fiction, 192 pages. \$10

ECODEFENSE: A Field

Guide to Monkeywrenching

Edited by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood. Extensively revised, expanded third edition of the mother of all how-to-fuck-shit-up books. Illustrated, 352 pages. \$18

Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness

By Doug Peacock. Fiction or nonfiction, one can't really tell with this chilling account of tracking the grizzly in the wilderness of Montana. Regardless of its true content, *Grizzly Years* is a soul jerking adventure story. 288 pages. \$14

Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization

By Christopher Manes. A brilliant defense of radical environmentalism, challenging the ethics of modern industrial society and asserting the right of the natural world to blossom, evolve and exist for its own sake. Nonfiction, 291 pages. \$13

A Sand County Almanac (with Essays on Conservation from Round River)

By Aldo Leopold. Special edition. A classic, romantic must read for anyone looking to defend Mama Earth. Written in 1945, Leopold was way ahead of his time. Nonfiction, 228 pages. \$10

Think Like a Mountain: Toward a Council of All Beings

By John Seed, Joanna Macy, Pat Fleming, Arne Naess. Illustrated by Dailan Pugh. Probes into how we're all really animals at heart. 128 pages, \$10

Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching

By Lynn Jacobs. Encyclopedic overview of grazing. Contains contact list, graphics, charts and maps. Nonfiction, 602 pages. \$28

Concrete

By Paul Chadwick. A full-color illustrated comic novel about a group of EF!ers who contact Concrete (a mountaineer/writer trapped in a concrete body) to help with an old-growth forest campaign. Full of EF! history and philosophy. Fiction, 160 pages. \$18

Ecological Resistance Movements: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism

Edited by Bron Taylor. A global look of case studies on the driving forces behind defending the Earth. Nonfiction, 422 pages. \$20

Refuge

By Terry Tempest Williams. An unnatural story of life in the radioactive American West. Tempest Williams has created a masterpiece interweaving her mother's breast cancer and shorebirds threatened by the rise of the Great Salt Lake. Nonfiction, 304 pages. \$12

Earth First! Campfire Poems

Edited by Dennis Fritzing, Karen Coulter and Dwight Metzger. A cruise through EF! history, this compilation will surely move you. Some poets included are Rod Coronado, Karen Coulter, Darryl Echt, Dennis Fritzing, Peter Galvin, Mathew Haun, Lone Wolf Circles, Asante Riverwind, Snaggletooth, Faith Walker and Phillip Wright. 237 pages. \$10

Do Or Die: Voices from Earth First!

Edited by *Do or Die* editorial collective. These pages are filled to the brim with direct action, resistance, theory, critique, sabotage and subversion. British EF!ers have put together a must have for revolutionary ecologists. This may be the last issue, so order now while supplies last. 345 pages, printed once a year if you're lucky. \$15

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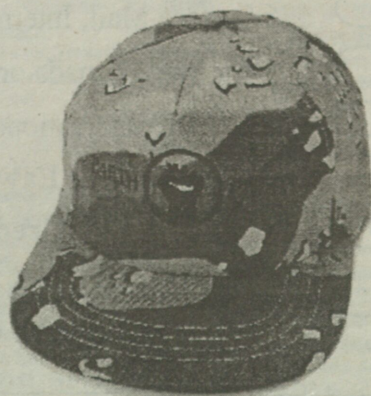
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- Earth First!
- Eschew Surplusage
- Fight the Power
- Hayduke Lives!
- I'd Rather Be Monkeywrenching
- If Your Pecker Was As Small As Mine You'd Need a Muscle Wagon, Too (on non-removable paper, \$.50 each)
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- Monkeywrench the Millenium
- Love Your Mother, Don't become A Father
- Love Your Mother, Don't Become One
- Native (with Earth graphic)
- Nature Bats Last
- Not Politically Correct
- Pay Your Rent, Work for the Earth
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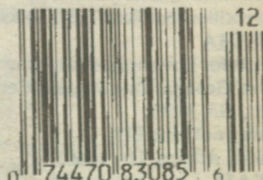
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